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COLUMBUS DAY

GOVERNMENT

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BEFORE
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4

OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 2372

AND SIMILAR PROPOSALS DECLARING OCTOBER 12
TO BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY

OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 1967

Serial No. 9

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H.R. 2372, AND SIMILAR BILLS, TO DECLARE COLUMBUS DAY, OCTOBER 12, TO BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE No. 4 OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to call, in room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Byron G. Rogers (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Rogers, Conyers, Jacobs, McClory, and Wiggins.

Also present: Jerome M. Zeifman, counsel, and Franklin G. Polk, associate counsel.

Mr. ROGERS. The committee will come to order.

Today Subcommittee No. 4 of the Committee on the Judiciary begins hearings on bills to make Columbus Day, October 12, a legal holiday. There are now pending before the committee over 35 proposals introduced by Members of the House to so honor Christopher Columbus.

Hearings on this proposal were last held on December 18, 1963. Without objection the bills now pending before the subcommittee will be placed in the record at this point.

(The documents referred to follow:)

[H.R. 449, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To designate Columbus Day (the 12th day of October in each year), a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday in November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 512, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making the 12th day of October in each year a legal holiday to be known as Columbus Day

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year shall be known as Columbus Day, and is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

COLUMBUS DAY

[H.R. 606, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 705, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 877, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, and the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 1103, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday, to be known as "Columbus Day"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, the day known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 1194, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 1300, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year,

to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 1492, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 2009, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Designating Columbus Day as a national legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day designated as Columbus Day pursuant to the Act of April 30, 1934 (36 U.S.C. 146), is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes, in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 2063, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 2372, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 3891, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day

of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 3926, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To provide that Columbus Day shall be a legal holiday for officers and employees of the United States in each State in which such day is designated as a legal State holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, the day known as "Columbus Day," is hereby made a legal holiday for officers and employees of the United States whose principal place of employment is determined by the President to be located within any State of the United States where such day is designated by appropriate State authority for observance as a legal State holiday.

[H.R. 4701, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To provide that Columbus Day shall be a legal holiday for officers and employees of the United States in each State in which such day is designated as a legal State holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, the day known as "Columbus Day," is hereby made a legal holiday for officers and employees of the United States whose principal place of employment is determined by the President to be located within any State of the United States where such day is designated by appropriate State authority for observance as a legal State holiday.

[H.R. 4702, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 5057, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday, to be known as "Columbus Day"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, the day known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 5350, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday, to be known as "Columbus Day"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, the day known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 6356, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To designate Columbus Day, the 12th day of October in each year, a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday in November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 6481, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL to designate Columbus Day, the 12th day of October in each year, a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday in November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 7532, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 8443, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 8501, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 9169, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making the 12th day of October in each year a legal holiday to be known as Columbus Day

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year shall be known as Columbus Day, and is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day

of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 9927, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 10099, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 10536, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 10594, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 10675, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 10740, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22nd day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 11170, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 12769, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 12900, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 12957, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13076, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To designate Columbus Day, the 12th day of October in each year, a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year,

known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday in September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday in November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13282, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13443, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Making Columbus Day a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year, being the day celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes in the same manner as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day are now made by law public holidays.

[H.R. 13445, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13449, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13451, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13491, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13506, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, to be hereafter celebrated and known as Columbus Day, is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.R. 13545, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL Declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday, to be known as "Columbus Day"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October of each year, the day known as "Columbus Day", is hereby declared to be a legal holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November and Christmas Day.

[H.J. Res. 227, 90th Cong., first sess.]

JOINT RESOLUTION To designate Columbus Day, the 12th day of October in each year, a legal holiday

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year shall be known as Columbus Day, and is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November, and Christmas Day.

[H.J. Res. 595, 90th Cong., first sess.]

JOINT RESOLUTION To designate Columbus Day, the 12th day of October in each year, a legal holiday

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of October in each year shall be known as Columbus Day, and is hereby made a legal public holiday of the same character as the 1st day of January, the 22d of February, the 30th day of May, the 4th day of July, the first Monday of September, the 11th day of November, the fourth Thursday of November and Christmas Day.

MR. ROGERS. I might say parenthetically that my own State of Colorado was among the first that declared October 12 to be a legal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus. Today we are hearing from Members of Congress. Our leadoff witness is a member of the Judiciary Committee with whom I have had the honor and pleasure to serve for almost 17 years in the Congress of the United States.

I think he is an outstanding member and descendant of the Italian race who has proved himself to be a great American in the National Legislature.

Our first witness is the Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr., of New Jersey, who introduced H.R. 2372. Mr. Rodino, welcome to you. Give us the benefit of your thinking in this matter.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Mr. RODINO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of this very distinguished committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views as to why October 12 should be a national holiday.

Mr. Chairman, this is a most important public hearing, and I am honored to appear before you as the leadoff speaker.

You are seeking to discover whether Columbus Day should be celebrated as a national holiday.

Let me say at the outset that I can think of no reason why it should not.

I do not mind admitting for the record that I have dreamed of such a national holiday since early boyhood, and that I have worked with diligence and dedication since my election to the Congress in 1948 to promote this dream into reality.

In the pursuit of this goal, it was my privilege to serve as national chairman of the Citizens Committee for Columbus Day.

From this vantage point, I made a wonderful and heartening discovery that is pertinent to your inquiry.

I learned that I was not one of a small clique that had embraced this cause; but rather that I was a part of a large, varied, and broad-based group, a cross section of representative Americans from every walk of life who shared a desire to bring about the establishment of Columbus Day as a national holiday.

The list of proponents is lengthy, imposing, and impressive, headed by President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey. And going back over the years to many others of equal stature, it includes Governor Hughes from my home State of New Jersey, from whom you will hear later, and elected and appointed officials, judges, scientists, educators, leaders of business and commerce, labor officials, white-collar workers, blue-collar workers, and housewives.

It is particularly significant that 38 of our 50 States presently observe October 12 as a State holiday. And these 38 States include the most populous in the Nation which together account for all but a tiny percentage of our total population.

Such overwhelming numbers and support cannot be ignored. It is especially incumbent upon the Congress of the United States, the basic focal point of representative democracy, to heed the message of these overwhelming numbers and to act in accordance with the will of the majority of the people.

If the Congress is truly and accurately to be reflective of the view of the majority on the issue before us, it has no choice other than to move forward with speed and determination to enact the bill which is now under consideration and which, the record should show, is similar to a measure passed by the Senate in the 88th Congress.

What purpose, you may ask, would be served by the establishment of Columbus Day as a national holiday?

Permit me, as one who has given considerable thought to the question, to give you my own personal answer.

As I envision it, Columbus Day would be a multipurpose national holiday.

It would, of course, recognize Christopher Columbus, the undaunted admiral who heroically braved the myth and mysteries of the terrifying, uncharted Atlantic to discover America.

That bold and daring venture, a major milestone in the history of mankind, deserves to be remembered anew each year. In and of itself, it is sufficient reason to justify a national celebration in a country that owes its existence to that magical moment of discovery.

Whether Columbus was actually the first or second, or even the third, voyager to reach these shores is purely academic and totally irrelevant. It detracts nothing from the intrepid admiral's daring and determination. It subtracts nothing from the everlasting significance of his unique and monumental achievement.

This leads me to my second purpose for a national Columbus Day observance.

It would, as I see it, be an ideal day for an annual reaffirmation by the American people of their faith in the future, a declaration of willingness to face with confidence the imponderables of unknown tomorrows.

In the courageous spirit of Columbus, we would pay tribute to the virtue of perseverance against the paralysis of baseless, ill-founded fear.

Further, Columbus Day would be a perfect occasion for the Nation to pause each year to pay homage to the cause and challenge of discovery, invention, and exploration.

It would be a time to review our progress in the search for technological advances to improve our way of life by making it better, safer, and more satisfying; to evaluate our gains in the patient quest for cures to diseases that kill and cripple; to appraise the wondrous probes into the vast and awesome void of outer space.

Finally, Columbus Day would be a day to honor immigrants of all nationalities and acknowledge their contributions to the building of a strong, just, and prosperous United States of America.

President Kennedy correctly called us "a nation of immigrants," and the Congress already has acted to establish Ellis Island as a permanent reminder of our indebtedness to those who came from foreign soil and gave their brain and their brawn—and not infrequently their lives—that their adopted land might grow and flourish.

Just as George Washington deservedly is called the "Father of Our Country," so Christopher Columbus deservedly should be remembered as the "Father of Immigration," for on his second, third, and fourth voyages he made the first attempts at colonization in the New World.

And even the first journey had an international character. Let us not overlook the fact that Columbus was an Italian whose fleet was provided by the Spaniards and whose crew was recruited largely from among Portuguese sailors.

From the very beginning, this country was indebted to the courage and sacrifice of the men of more than one nation, and this debt has increased with each passing year.

In honoring our immigrants on Columbus Day we will do more than show our gratitude for their countless contributions. We will be simultaneously striking a powerful blow against discrimination and the intolerable prejudice of those who insist upon measuring a man by where he comes from, or where his parents or their parents came from, without regard for individual ability, integrity, loyalty, or any other distinguishing and commendable characteristic.

Discrimination is not compatible with democracy. Prejudice is alien to the principles on which this country was created. Bigotry is foreign to the ideals and truths to which this country was dedicated.

The observance of Columbus Day as a national holiday will, I am certain, prove to be effective in blotting out the vestiges of discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry—and for this reason alone I would urge favorable action on the pending bill.

When consideration is given to the other desirable purposes that an annual Columbus Day observance would serve, the case for establishing this national holiday becomes more than clear and convincing, it becomes compelling and vitally necessary.

A multipurpose Columbus Day observance, as I have outlined, will complement and enhance our calendar of national holidays.

The pending bill merits your swift approval and speedy passage. I hope that this distinguished committee will so act. Thank you very much.

Mr. ROGERS. On page 3 of your statement you declare "whether Columbus was actually the first, second, or third voyager to reach these shores is purely academic and totally irrelevant."

By that do you mean that through the voyages that he made, Columbus built up the spirit of daring and determination of others like him to explore and establish America? Is that what you had in mind, Mr. Rodino?

Mr. RODINO. Yes, sir. Of course, I also have in mind that some controversy has arisen and that there are people who very justifiably, of course, because of kinship and because of admiration of their own compatriots, feel that the discoverer of this land was someone other than Christopher Columbus.

We, of course, consider questions as to whether this is so, but I think all of us who are here in America feel that our history books have pretty well documented that Columbus was the first discoverer of this great country and this Nation.

I merely refer to the controversy because I feel we recognize that Columbus Day itself is of such importance that we must put this dispute aside and recognize October 12 as a historic day, a great day of discovery of this great Nation.

Mr. ROGERS. You stated that there have been a number of States who have declared it a State holiday?

Mr. RODINO. Yes, Mr. Chairman. There are now 38 States which recognize Columbus Day as a State holiday. There are observances all over the United States on October 12.

When I served as national chairman of the National Citizens Committee for Columbus Day, I became more impressed with the manner and the enthusiasm with which this day was observed all across the United States by the various States.

Upon checking my data I find that 38 of these States actually recognize this as a State holiday and some other States although not recognizing it as a State holiday nonetheless observe it.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Mr. CONYERS, do you have any questions?

Mr. CONYERS. No, I believe our colleague on the Judiciary Committee has led off the discussion of this piece of legislation in a very commendable way. I think he has been extremely careful to avoid any historical encounters in terms of who was the first discoverer of America. I commend him on his presentation.

I feel that the presentation that we have received from our distinguished colleague will be extremely helpful.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. McClory.

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend our colleague, Congressman Rodino, for his fine statement, for his leadership in connection with this legislation, and for his interest in promoting appropriate recognition of Christopher Columbus not only because of his individual achievement but because of the great interest which so many citizens of Italian descent and descendants of other nationalities have in this particular legislation.

As my colleague knows, I have a great affinity for Italy. Members of my own family live there at the present time, and I have a great affection for the nation and for their descendants.

I do want to ask a few questions which are pertinent to the subject. First of all, I would like to inquire what effect this might have on some legislation which I am particularly interested in which would establish our nonreligious holidays on Mondays in order to promote uniformity and more family togetherness on weekends and to cut down on absenteeism which occurs when the holidays fall on midweek days. Do you have an opinion whether the holiday should fall on October 12 or whether it should occur on a Monday which might be close to October 12?

Mr. RODINO. I might answer the distinguished gentleman in this way: My main concern is that Columbus Day be recognized as a national holiday. Whether it be observed on a Monday or whether it be observed on a Tuesday is totally immaterial to me. I believe that it is high time that we recognize the significance of this day and October 12 is the day, of course, which we focus upon, because this is the day which has come to our attention and on which all of these observances have been held.

However, I would not at all be opposed to the setting of the observance of it on any other day. As I stated before, at the expense of being repetitious, it is my interest that Columbus Day be recognized and observed appropriately, because I believe it is deserving of that recognition.

Mr. McCLORY. Now, in your bill, H.R. 2372, Mr. Rodino, you state that you want Columbus Day to be declared a legal holiday in the same character as other dates, the 1st of January, the 22d of February, and other dates that you have designated there. As a matter of fact, we don't have any national legal holidays in the strict sense, do we? We have days that are provided for in section 6103 of title 5, United States Code, which affect holidays for Federal employees and employees of

the District of Columbia, but beyond that the Federal Government does not declare any national holidays.

The holidays are established by the States and in general they follow the pattern which we set forth in section 6103 of title V.

Mr. RODINO. I recognize what you are trying to call to my attention. My purpose in drafting the language in this way is to be sure we give as equal observance to Columbus Day as to these other commemorative holidays.

Mr. McCLORY. I have before me a copy of a letter addressed to the chairman of the committee from the Chairman of the Civil Service Committee commenting on this legislation and indicating that in order to establish Columbus Day as a legal holiday it would cost between \$4 and \$5 million in premium pay because of the overtime requirements of those who have to work on Columbus Day if it is designated as a holiday.

In addition, because of the fact that employees would be off work on Columbus Day as a legal holiday there would be an additional estimated cost to the Government in terms of lost time.

Let me read from the letter:

The man-hours lost through an additional holiday can be valued at around \$85 million for the Federal service as a whole. Lost time and premium pay combined would be assessed as running around \$90 million in cost.

Do you have an opinion as to this impact on the Federal budget and the Federal economy that this legislation would entail?

Mr. RODINO. No. Very frankly, I do recognize that if this proposal is enacted into law and Columbus Day becomes a legal holiday that there is going to be some impact in this area. I don't know that I estimate it to be as stated. Of course, it would be in lost time but this is again, I think, something that we would consider just under the circumstances.

There are other cases where the people in the Federal service observe other days and the same impact occurs. We could certainly justify this occasion as well.

Mr. McCLORY. It is my opinion that if we were to establish uniform Monday holidays that there would be a saving. Maybe I can help you out or maybe you can help me out by helping to have the uniform Monday holiday bill passed. We would save enough in that legislation to make up the loss that we will have by establishing Columbus Day as a legal holiday.

What do you think about that?

Mr. RODINO. I certainly think that the direction in which that proposal tends is interesting. As I say, if this bill were to be adopted and the Congress in its wisdom enacted legislation which you referred to, I certainly could not object and I would wholeheartedly support it as such.

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you for that support and thank you for that statement.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins.

Mr. WIGGINS. There are those, as you know, who recommend other persons to celebrate around this time of the year than Christopher Columbus. In 1964, some 11 resolutions were introduced seeking to create a Mariner's Day as distinguished from the Columbus Day.

Do you have any great objection to having some sort of Founders Day or Discoverers Day or whatever to be celebrated early in October to recognize all the appropriate people?

Mr. RODINO. I, of course, would never detract from the contributions made by other people. The question has been raised, as I have stated, and I would not deny the contributions which may have been made by Leif Erickson or other early navigators.

The point, however, that I would like to impress on the committee is that our textbooks and our history have been written around Christopher Columbus, and there are a great many scholars who adhere to the proposition that it was Christopher Columbus who initially made the discovery of the New World and opened it up to civilization and colonization.

I would dislike to think that we would derogate for one moment from the significant accomplishments in that direction. I think that to put Christopher Columbus in a lesser category than he deserves would in my estimation not be justified. So, I would hope that Columbus Day and Christopher Columbus as such would be the focal point of any legislation.

Mr. WIGGINS. I think in due course it will be established beyond question that it was some persons from Asia crossing the land mass a great many years before Leif Ericson was born who settled on this great continent.

I gather your answer to be an unequivocal "no" to my question. Is that true?

Mr. RODINO. Yes, I would say "No" to that.

Mr. WIGGINS. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. The letter referred to by the gentleman from Illinois from Mr. Macy, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, will be inserted in the record at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)

U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,
Washington, D.C., September 25, 1967.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Zelenko of your staff has inquired as to the cost to the Federal Government of creating an additional Federal holiday. We understand this stems from your committee's consideration of recommendations to make Columbus Day a national holiday.

The cost of an additional holiday is difficult to estimate precisely, since there are many considerations to be made. There would be some added expense in premium pay for employees engaged in round-the-clock services, such as those in hospitals and prisons, in operations involving air traffic control, movement of the mail, and security and maintenance. This, we estimate, would require premium pay of roughly \$4 to \$5 million for about 5 percent of employees who would remain on duty. The man hours lost through an additional holiday can be valued at around \$85 million for the Federal Service as a whole. Lost time and premium pay combined would be assessed as running around \$90 million in cost.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. MACY, JR., *Chairman.*

Mr. ROGERS. With that we will dismiss you pursuant to commitments heretofore made.

Mr. RODINO. Thank you.

(Subsequently Congressman Rodino submitted the following additional statement for inclusion in the record:)

STATEMENT OF HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, it has been necessary that those of us who wish to have Columbus Day made a Federal holiday show the same persistence that Columbus himself displayed in the face of indifference, rebuffs, and arguments based on false premises. Bills to make Columbus Day a Federal holiday have been introduced for many years, and this effort to honor Columbus emulates his own example of determination in confronting and overcoming opposition.

In further support of this legislation before you, I would like to add some further information on recognition which has been given to the achievement of Columbus.

The first observance of Columbus Day is believed to have occurred in New York City on October 12, 1792, where elaborate ceremonies were held on the three hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. A monument, erected as part of the decorations of the 1792 celebration, is thought to have been the first monument to Columbus raised in the United States. The second such monument, except for those in the District of Columbia, was erected in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, by the subscriptions of Italian Americans on the occasion of the centennial celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1892, in honor of the four hundredth anniversary of the great discovery, a monument to Columbus was built at the southwestern entrance of Central Park in New York City; the area was named Columbus Circle.

The quadricentennial celebration of the discovery was an international exposition held in Chicago. In order that the anniversary would not pass unacknowledged by the Federal Government, the Congress of the United States on June 29, 1892, adopted a joint resolution directing that the President call upon the American people to observe the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America on the following 21st of October by holding ceremonies and school programs honoring Columbus.

The date chosen by Congress illustrates the difficulties involved in picking an appropriate time for such anniversary ceremonies. A change in the calendar made a century after Columbus' era; October 12th was the date of the discovery of America according to the calendar before the change. It was desired by the Congress that the celebration should take place on the day that corresponded, under the present calendar, to October 12th of the old calendar. This would have been October 23rd, but since this was a Sunday and school observances were contemplated, the joint resolution fixed Friday, October 21st, as the day for the ceremonies.

Since then, there have been other honors paid to the memory of Columbus and his great discovery. In Colorado, Governor Alva Adams issued a proclamation in 1905 calling on Colorado's citizens to observe Columbus Day on October 12th of that year, and in 1916, Mayor Dunne of Chicago issued a similar proclamation.

In New York State, the legislature passed a bill in 1908 making the day a legal holiday. This bill was vetoed by the Governor who said that he was not convinced a popular demand for another holiday existed. The veto aroused such protest that the governor signed a similar bill in the next session on March 23, 1909, and Columbus Day was celebrated in New York on October 12th of that year.

Many States have since adopted such legislation. A recent instance occurred in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where Governor John Volpe, himself of Italian descent, signed an act on April 7, 1961, making Columbus Day a legal holiday there.

For more than half a century, bills have been introduced in Congress to make Columbus Day a Federal holiday. When such legislation was first introduced it was urged that if the Federal government acted the States would soon follow suit. Now it may be said that the Federal government should follow the examples set for it by the many States which have in the intervening years made Columbus Day a legal holiday either by legislation or by executive order.

This bill making Columbus Day a Federal holiday would meet the test for the creation of new holidays which has been stated to be as follows: "The occasion called for must be national in scope and of widespread significance, serving the Nation as a whole." This test would be met through recognition of Columbus' achievement and our commemoration of the discovery of the western hemisphere.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness will be the Honorable Frank Annunzio from Illinois who has introduced H.R. 3891. We shall be pleased to hear from you, Mr. Annunzio.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK ANNUNZIO, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Thank you.

I want to thank you and the other distinguished members of the subcommittee for the opportunity provided me to appear here this morning to testify on behalf of my bill, H.R. 3891, which would make Columbus Day a national legal holiday.

Many of my colleagues in the 90th Congress have joined me in introducing identical legislation in order to honor Christopher Columbus, the great Italian navigator who discovered America in 1492, and I am pleased that they, too, recognize the pressing need for enactment of this legislation.

Thirty-eight States have already declared Columbus Day a legal holiday, but national recognition of Christopher Columbus' momentous discovery has been withheld all these many years.

It is indeed an oversight on the part of the U.S. Congress to withhold this national recognition, particularly when we realize that the development of our great country, as well as the development of the whole Western Hemisphere, resulted from Columbus' discovery.

Almost every country in South America, and parts of Canada, observe Columbus Day as a national holiday. Yet we ourselves refrain from observing this holiday on a national level.

It is unfortunate that we in the United States do not celebrate Columbus Day as a national legal holiday, for if we did, we could join hands with our brothers and sisters in South America in a joint celebration of the one event which holds such profound meaning for all of us.

Perhaps, by extending our hand in friendship and by celebrating this holiday together, we could create a more hospitable atmosphere for settling some of the vital social and economic problems which confront us.

Of all the outstanding men whose deeds have made an imperishable record in the hearts and minds of men and women through the ages, it is Columbus whose fame will last forever. Perhaps his achievement is more meaningful for us today than it was for previous generations, because we face the vastness of outer space in the same way that Columbus faced the expanse of the uncharted ocean.

Despite all obstacles and hazards, despite primitive navigational equipment, this great Italian found land and achieved the most spectacular and important geographical discovery in the history of our planet.

The qualities that made Columbus great—stubborn persistence despite discouragement and danger, indomitable will, faith in God, and absolute fearlessness—are qualities which our early settlers possessed, which our courageous pioneers demonstrated as they opened up the West, and which our great industrialists and labor leaders have used in building the successful economic enterprises and achieving the remarkable industrial advances that have made our country the greatest nation in the world.

Today, we have more people employed than at any time in our history, our country is enjoying the greatest prosperity we have ever known. Our gross national product is over \$740 billion and by 1972 it is predicted that our gross national product will exceed \$1 trillion.

In this era of prosperity and progress, it is difficult to believe that there are those who would oppose making Columbus Day a national legal holiday on the basis that it would cost too much money to close our Government offices, our schools, our banks, and other public places.

When one takes into consideration the great prosperity in our country, and our constantly growing and expanding economy, this excuse of cost becomes weak, flimsy, and ineffective.

Mr. Chairman, the magnificent courage and boundless imagination of Columbus made possible the discovery of our country where today the greatest democracy ever known to man is flourishing. His indomitable spirit has become a part of us and our way of life.

Today, our astronauts who explore outer space are manifesting the same dauntless spirit that Columbus demonstrated when he embarked on an uncharted and trackless ocean to find America.

Our debt to Columbus is profound, for his discovery marked the actual beginning of our culture and our country. No longer can we deny him national recognition.

The other body, during the 88th Congress, recognized this debt, and in an effort to give Columbus the recognition he justly deserves, passed on August 15, 1964, a bill introduced by Senator J. Caleb Boggs, of Delaware, to make Columbus Day a national legal holiday. Unfortunately, this bill never came to the floor of the House for action, and died in the House Judiciary Committee when the 88th Congress expired.

Today, in these hearings before the distinguished subcommittee, we have the opportunity to follow the commendable lead of the other body and take positive action on legislation to make Columbus Day a national legal holiday. Only by doing so can our debt to Columbus be adequately paid.

My files contain many, many letters which I have received from various organizations and from people in all walks of life urging that Columbus Day be made a national legal holiday.

In order to provide the members of this subcommittee with the sentiments contained in some of these letters, I would like to have them included in my testimony and made a part of the official record of the hearing.

The letters from the United Italian-American Organizations; the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Order Sons of Italy in America; the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons of Italy in America; the Lodge No. 53, Italo American National Union of Gary, Ind.; the Modulno Recreational Social Club of Gary, Ind.; the Calumet Chapter of American Italian Societies of East Chicago, Ind.; the Italian-American Women's Club of Lake County, Ind.; the Consolidated Italo-Americans; and from Mr. Alfred P. Adamo of Detroit, Mich., are attached to my statement.

I feel that the hearings this year are being held at a most appropriate time of the year—as the 475th anniversary of Columbus' dis-

covery of America approaches. There is no better time than now to take favorable action on the legislation before this subcommittee.

I wholeheartedly support the legislation and I am hopeful that the distinguished members of this subcommittee will find it possible to act favorably in order that this long overdue recognition can be extended to the great Italian navigator who made the most important geographical discovery in modern history.

Again, I want to express my deep appreciation to all the members of this subcommittee and to the distinguished chairman, Hon. Byron Rogers, for the opportunity to appear and to express my views to you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Annunzio. The letters to which you have referred will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

UNITED ITALIAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS,
Chicago, Ill., March 2, 1967.

HON. FRANK ANNUNZIO,
Congressman of the 7th District.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: The members of the United Italian-American Organization, known as UNITAMO, have been following your progress and your set backs, in getting legislation to make Columbus Day a Legal Holiday. We have supported you ever since you first introduced it to Congress. Again, we the members of UNITAMO, support you in getting Columbus Day a Legal Holiday. Unfortunately, that it died in the House Judiciary Committee. It is unfair, that all the Members of the House of Representatives did not have the opportunity to vote on this legislation.

All of the affiliated Societies, of UNITAMO, urge you to continue to fight for this legislation and get all the members of the House, to vote on this. We are confident, that you will not rest, until Columbus is recognized.

In closing, may we wish you well, and may God give you the necessary strength and wisdom to bring this to a successful conclusion.

Respectfully yours,

FRED PARISI,

President of UNITAMO.

JOSEPH A. MANISCALCO,

Chairman of the Board of Directors.

FRANK P. PITARRO,

President Emeritus.

JOHN A. GROCCO,

Public Relations Director, for UNITAMO.

GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA,
White Plains, N.Y., March 8, 1967.

Re: Columbus Day—National Holiday.

HON. FRANK ANNUNZIO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ANNUNZIO: On behalf of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Order Sons of Italy in America, please accept our thanks for your efforts in seeking the passage of a bill making Columbus Day a National Holiday.

Over the years a great number of Congressmen and Senators have been slowly rallying to the cause. It appears that this year may be the time to look for success.

Our own State Legislature has been prevailed upon to release a resolution memorializing Congress to pass legislation to declare Columbus Day a National Holiday. I have written to the Speaker of the Assembly (Assemblyman Travia—who is also the Chairman of the Rules Committee), imploring him to have the resolution released from Committee. State Senator Anderson has also assured me he will do his best. Other representatives from Westchester County have indicated

they will support the measure. Our two Congressmen from Westchester—Ottinger and Reid—will, I am sure, go along.

Accordingly, we of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York will continue to support your efforts and those of all Legislators who are working towards the attainment of the goal—to have Columbus Day Declared a National Holiday! Good luck and best wishes.

Sincerely and fraternally,

SALVATORE H. MIGLIACCIO,
Grand Venerable, Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE GRAND CONVENTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, IN RICHMOND, ON JUNE 17, 1967, RE DESIGNATION BY ACT OF CONGRESS OF OCTOBER 12 AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Whereas, Christopher Columbus, the great Genovese navigator, has always been recognized in responsible intellectual circles as the true discoverer of the New World; and

Whereas, from the very inception of our great Republic, it has been the fashion and tradition to honor the memory of Columbus so that the Founding Fathers often referred to the Republic as "Columbia"; and

Whereas, there has been in recent years a waning of patriotic fervor and a tendency to gloss over the achievements of the great historical figure: Be it

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons of Italy in America, place itself on record to reaffirm the collective desire of its members that our nation perpetuate its debt of gratitude to the memory of Christopher Columbus officially by Act of Congress by designating October 12 of each year as "Columbus Day," a national holiday to be dedicated to the ever-lasting glory of Christopher Columbus; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee make known this action of the Grand Lodge of Virginia to the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, by sending a letter to him communicating the contents of this resolution and copies of this resolution be sent to all Italian-American Congressmen in Washington, D.C.

FRANK J. FILIPPONE,
Chairman, Resolutions Committee.

PRINCIPESSA MARIA DI PIEMONTE,
LODGE No. 53, ITALO AMERICAN NATIONAL UNION,
Gary, Ind., September 30, 1967.

Congressman FRANK ANNUNZIO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ANNUNZIO: On behalf of the Principessa Maria di Piemonte Lodge No. 53 of the Italo American National Union, I wish to add our support for legislation to make Columbus Day a National Legal Holiday. Our Lodge has a membership of 100 and has been in existence since 1930.

Your favorable support of this legislation will be greatly appreciated. Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely,

ANGELINE CASALE, *President.*

RESOLUTION BY THE MODUGNO RECREATIONAL SOCIAL CLUB OF GARY, IND.

Whereas, this organization has its inception in 1957 constantly supported legislation to make Columbus a Federal Legal Holiday; and

Whereas, this year there are several bills in the National Congress that would make Columbus Day a Federally Legal Holiday; and

Whereas, the House Judiciary Subcommittee #4, Congressman Byron G. Rogers (demo-Colorado), Chairman, has formally announced the scheduled of hearings on Columbus Day bills on the dates of Wednesday and Thursday, October 4 and 5, 1967, in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors (which includes current and past presidents

of the local American-Italian Societies) assembled in special meeting on Thursday, September 28, 1967, to consider this question again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Calumet Chapter, American-Italian Societies hereby recommends to the National Congress that it pass this year a bill to make Columbus Day a Legal Holiday; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Byron G. Rogers; Congressman Frank Annunzio; U.S. Senator Vance Hartke; U.S. Senator Birch Bayh; Congressman Ray J. Madden; and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

EMILIO J. OTTOMANELLI, *President*.

CROWN POINT, IND., *September 29, 1967.*

HON. FRANK ANNUNZIO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ANNUNZIO: Enclosed you will find a copy of a resolution passed by the Calumet Chapter of American-Italian Societies, which is self-explanatory.

Naturally, I already know your position—but thought you would like to have this for your files for added support.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

SAM BUSHEMI,
Lake County Assessor.

RESOLUTION BY CALUMET CHAPTER, AMERICAN ITALIAN SOCIETIES, EAST CHICAGO, IND.

Whereas, the Calumet Chapter of American-Italian Societies is a council of sixteen American-Italian clubs in Lake County; and

Whereas, this organization has since its inception in 1957 constantly supported legislation to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and

Whereas, this year there are several bills in the National Congress that would make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and

Whereas, the House Judiciary Subcommittee #4, Congressman Byron G. Rogers (Demo.-Colorado), Chairman, has formally announced the scheduling of hearings on Columbus Day bills on the dates of Wednesday and Thursday, October 4, and 5, 1967, in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors (which includes current and past presidents of the local American-Italian Societies) assembled in special meeting on Thursday, September 28, 1967, to consider this question again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Calumet Chapter, American-Italian Societies hereby recommends to the National Congress that it pass this year a bill to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Byron G. Rogers; Congressman Frank Annunzio; U.S. Senator Vance Hartke; U.S. Senator Birch Bayh; Congressman Ray J. Madden; and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Submitted by:

SAM BUSHEMI,
Past President, Calumet Chapter, American-Italian Societies.

Attested to:

Mrs. ANGELINE ZIMMERMAN,
Secretary, Calumet Chapter, American-Italian Societies.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF LAKE COUNTY, IND.,
East Chicago, Ind., October 2, 1967.

On behalf of the Italian-American Womens Club of Lake County, Indiana, I wish to add our support to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday.

We have a membership of 60 ladies. We have been in existence since 1963. Your favorable support of this legalization will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Mrs. JOSEPHINE GEMIGNANI,
President.

CONSOLIDATED ITALO-AMERICANS, INC.,
Brooklyn, N.Y., May 26, 1967.

DEAR SIR: We, the officers and members of Consolidated Italo-Americans, Inc., Brooklyn Headquarters, extend to you our greetings.

Recently our Congressman, the Honorable Abraham Multer from the 13th Congressional District of Brooklyn, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 8501) to make Columbus Day, October 12th, a legal holiday.

We would be remiss in our responsibilities as a functioning organization, both to ourselves and to our people, were such an important Legislative measure allowed to go unheralded into defeat due to any lack of pertinent action on our part.

We, therefore, shall defend, support, and assist, by all means at our disposal, its passage into law.

We sincerely believe that enactment of this bill would give twenty-three million Americans of Italian lineage, residing throughout these United States, a needed uplift in their morale, and would re-affirm their belief in this system of government, which is the cornerstone of our great democracy.

We further hope that passage of this bill might serve to offset the defamatory connotations which invariably arise everytime one of our people runs afoul of the law.

We respectfully request that you carefully weigh the many merits offered by this bill to such a considerable portion of the population, and give it your full support when it comes to the floor for a vote.

Very truly yours,

GUY GIULIANO, *President.*

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS—MAN OF GREAT FAITH, SIMPLICITY, AND SINCERITY

DETROIT, MICH., *August 8, 1967.*

DEAR EDITOR: Christopher Columbus was ridiculed in 1486 by the Erudites of Salamanca in Spain, when he tried to convince them that the earth was round. Columbus, a man of wisdom, imagination and sincerity, had great faith in God and his fellow men—so therefore, he took great risk in crossing the sea, and in 1492 his wishes came true when he discovered America. As history tells us, he was the only man to discover the republic which is the United States of America.

Therefore, 38 states recognized his honor and merit and have declared October 12th a legal holiday in his honor, and celebrate this day each and every year.

The American people have been disappointed that Congress did not recognize the value and merits of the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus. Many bills have been introduced before the United States Congress but all have died in the Judicial Committee Room. Therefore, I ask your help in urging your readers to write to their respective Congressmen stating that the time for this is overdue, and that Congress should finally honor Columbus as a first citizen of our Republic, by making October 12th a National Holiday.

The honor should not only be given to Columbus but to the people of the 38 states which are now legally honoring this great soul of a great navigator, Christopher Columbus.

Respectfully,

ALFRED P. ADAMO.

The following 38 states now celebrate October 12th in honor of Columbus.

Alabama	Kentucky	Ohio
Arizona	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Maryland	Pennsylvania
California	Massachusetts	Wyoming
Colorado	Michigan	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Montana	Texas
Delaware	Nebraska	Utah
Florida	Nevada	Vermont
Georgia	New Hampshire	Virginia
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington
Illinois	New Mexico	West Virginia
Indiana	New York	Wisconsin
Kansas	North Dakota	

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness will be the Honorable T. J. Dulski, from the State of New York, sponsor of H.R. 512.

**STATEMENT OF HON. THADDEUS J. DULSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Mr. DULSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of Subcommittee No. 4 of the Committee on the Judiciary, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to present my views on legislation which would make Columbus Day a legal holiday.

In this Congress, and in previous Congresses, I sponsored proposals to this end, and it is my earnest conviction that we should no longer delay the passage of legislation in memory of one of the world's greatest explorers.

Every civilization has honored its great men and marked its significant achievements by designating holidays in their memory.

Here in America, the Federal Government recognizes several holidays of national importance including Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, and Independence Day. But we have forgotten Columbus, the man whose genius and bravery made possible all which followed his discovery.

This is very unfortunate. In these days of great promise and great peril, we have many heroes, living and dead, whom we rightly honor. But the grandfather of them all is Columbus.

Columbus had a vision—a vision then considered ridiculous—that the world was round. He was laughed at by many people, but he persisted until he achieved his goal of finding the men and raising the money for his historic voyage.

We here today owe our very existence to the trail Columbus blazed across the pages of history more than 450 years ago.

I am well aware of the controversy raging in the academic world over the identity of the real discoverer of America. Whether or not these claims are true, those who support these various theories miss an essential point. If any men did land here before Columbus, they left nothing on which to build. Their solitary acts of courage faded quickly away into the mists of time.

The reason that Columbus should be honored as one of the towering figures in our history is that he was the first of a long line of leaders who came to the New World to build a new civilization. We have all benefited from the legacy Columbus left us.

Columbus laid a foundation for what has become a great and free nation. We owe a lasting debt of gratitude to him for seeing what others before him failed to see.

In the final analysis, the true mark of a great man lies in the acceptance of his vision by the generations which follow him. A great man is a builder; and the greatest are those who lay solid foundations upon which others can build.

Mr. Chairman and esteemed colleagues, I strongly urge favorable consideration of the proposal which would make Columbus Day a national holiday to assure that America will never forget his tremendous accomplishment.

Mr. ROGERS. We appreciate your fine statement. Thank you for appearing before us.

Mr. DULSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. The next witness is the Honorable John J. Rooney, author of H.R. 1194.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN J. ROONEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this distinguished subcommittee, I am pleased to be able to testify today on behalf of my bill, H.R. 1194, which would make Columbus Day, October 12, a legal holiday.

I have long sought legislative action which would make this occasion—Columbus Day—a national holiday. Surely honoring the dauntless navigator who braved the unknown seas to open up this uncharted continent to the civilized world is as meaningful to us North Americans as it is to the peoples of South and Central America. Yet the friendly nations to the south of us have seen fit to formally observe October 12 as a national holiday.

In 35 States, including my own great State of New York, this day is now observed as a legal holiday. Surely the place in our history earned by Christopher Columbus and his daring companions merits a uniform observance on a national basis.

I believe it is only a question of time until we in the Congress heed the voice of the people and give this day its due recognition to the "Father of our Continent."

We cannot reflect back upon that perilous voyage made to our shores 475 years ago and to the men who manned those tiny ships without reflecting, too, upon the role which other great men of Italian blood have played in this Nation's history.

The observance of Columbus Day becomes, also automatically, a day for honoring not only the intrepid explorer but the host of Italians who have enriched our culture and our lives generation after generation since Columbus planted the flag of Spain on our shores in 1492.

President Johnson in his Columbus Day Proclamation of last year stressed this point when he said:

Thus we honor Columbus not only as a voyager but also as a symbol of the long tradition of Italian enlightenment. From Galileo to Enrico Fermi, Italians have been a vanguard of those dedicated to expanding man's knowledge of the universe.

Millions of Americans are bound to Italy by ties of blood, and all Americans are the spiritual heritage of Italian genius which has enriched the quality of our national life.

Thus, we observe Columbus Day quite naturally as a day of expressing gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of loyal Americans of Italian heritage and to the thousands of great leaders who have risen from their ranks to lead this Nation from its infancy to its present position of a great world power.

These leaders, so proud of their Italian birth or parentage have helped guide this country through adversity and along paths of prosperity; they have helped to lead us in time of war and time of peace; and they have given us at all times the enjoyment of a fuller, richer

life because of the great gifts of Italian artists, poets, sculptors, dramatists, and musicians.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is highly fitting that those of us who cannot lay claim to Italian lineage use this day to pay well-earned tribute to our colleagues who so proudly proclaim their Italian heritage. There are among us several score for whom this day has special meaning.

I salute the Italian-American Members of the House and Senate as well as the many high officials in the judiciary and executive branches of the various levels of Federal, State, and local governments.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that before another October 12 rolls around the Members of the Congress will have seen fit to enact legislation which will make Columbus Day a national holiday, thus worthy of the man and men we honor this day.

I urge your distinguished subcommittee to report favorably on my bill, H.R. 1194, or Congressman Rodino's, or any of the pending bills to make Columbus Day a national legal holiday.

I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and would like to say to my distinguished colleague, who says that he has members of his family living in Italy, that I also have that pleasure. I have a son who has been living in Rome for the past 3 years.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Rooney. We appreciate your statement.

Mr. ROONEY. I might add one further thought. I testified for a similar bill before the Senate committee a couple of years ago. You know how parsimonious are the Members of that body when it comes to expending the taxpayers' funds. They reported unanimously and the Senate passed a bill similar to mine making Columbus Day a legal holiday.

I had the pleasure of testifying before the committee of the other body in connection with that bill.

Mr. ROGERS. I understand you were the only House Member that did.

Mr. ROONEY. I think that is so.

Mr. ROGERS. Are there any questions?

Mr. CONYERS. I am delighted to find so eminent a Member joining the sponsors here. This is quite educational for me. I have found that there are questions being raised here about Leif Erickson. There has been a suggestion that from the Asian land mass there may have been predecessors prior to him. Has there been any information, Mr. Rooney, that there may have been any Irishman involved in the discovery of America?

Mr. ROONEY. No. We give that credit to Columbus.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the distinguished Member for his very fine testimony.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory.

Mr. McCLORY. I would like to ask a seemingly awkward question, Congressman Rooney. You are a distinguished member of the House Appropriations Committee and interested in holding appropriations down, particularly at this time.

How would you handle the situation if the civil service appropriation bills come in the next session, after we had established Columbus

Day as a legal holiday and said we need \$90 million of additional appropriations because of the new holiday that the Congress established?

Mr. ROONEY. It occurs to me that I must say to my distinguished friend that we have precedent for this legislation in the fact that the other body unanimously passed a similar bill a couple of years ago.

I am sure that the Members of the other body were so interested in seeing that the budget was not out of balance and look so carefully at appropriations items that they would never have reported out and passed this bill if it had been of such consequence as you indicate.

Mr. McCLORY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins.

Mr. WIGGINS. Yes, one brief question.

If Columbus Day were recognized as a national holiday, in the fall of the year we would have Labor Day, Columbus Day, then Veterans Day, then Thanksgiving and Christmas. Do you think that if Columbus Day were recognized, it would be wise to consider moving Veterans Day into the spring of the year in order to achieve some balance in our national holidays?

Mr. ROONEY. It occurs to me that we must be getting gradually to a 4-day week. I have heard this said. If that is the fact, we would have no problem in this regard.

Mr. WIGGINS. Well, we are not there yet although I agree there is some movement in that direction.

What do you think about the suggestion of achieving better balance in the distribution of our national holidays?

Mr. ROONEY. It would seem to me that October 12 is in a month removed from Veterans Day. There would be no conflict to any great extent there.

Mr. WIGGINS. Do I understand you would be opposed to any movement, let us say, of Veterans Day to the spring?

Mr. ROONEY. I would, yes. You see, I happen to have been around the day that Veterans Day originated. I can well remember that day in World War I.

Mr. WIGGINS. We have had many wars and undeclared wars since then and I suspect we will have many more in the future.

Mr. ROONEY. I am afraid so.

Mr. WIGGINS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS. We will now hear from our distinguished majority whip the Honorable Hale Boggs.

STATEMENT OF HON. HALE BOGGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Boggs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shall only take a minute. I was sitting next to my favorite Congressman of Italian descent, George Miller, here a minute ago.

But I headed him off on one matter before he got up here to testify. He reminded me that after all, the Spaniards were also involved in this, that Columbus was born in Italy, true enough, but that it was Queen Isabella who came up with money and made the famous expedition possible.

I said, "Look here, George, you are not going to get up and make that statement because that is my statement."

I have a dual role here. I am fortunate enough in having a great many Americans of Italian descent in my district but also I am fortunate enough to have a lot of Spanish people. So, you see, this proposal has wide implications.

I am very happy, indeed, that George Miller, one of our leading Congressmen, would be wise enough to recognize that we not only honor Christopher Columbus as an Italian by observing October 12 as a holiday but I hope we shall honor a lot of others.

I know that Congressman Carey will point out the fact that the Irish were very much around in the early days. I don't have the exact historic reference but if the Irish Members of Congress can't get it I will try to look it up for them and make it a part of the record.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you so much.

Mr. McCLORY. How does this position of yours set with your Swedish constituents?

Mr. BOGGS. Excellent, because what we really do here is honor the spirit of daring, the desire for knowledge of the Swedes and the Scandanavians who were very early explorers of this hemisphere.

But, Mr. Chairman, quite seriously and quite earnestly, I would hope that the committee would give immediate consideration to Mr. Rodino's resolution and the others who have sponsored it because Columbus does have great significance to all Americans.

I don't think any schoolboy ever grew up without developing a tremendous admiration for the daring, the bravery, the perseverance, the courage of this man who did sail the ocean in three very tiny crafts.

As we look about today and see the type of vessels we have both on the ocean and in the air and the type of luxurious transportation that we now enjoy we recognize even more the intrepid daring and character of Christopher Columbus. He has been an inspiration to all Americans and also the fact that our country as President Kennedy said, has been a land of immigrants, and all of them together have made us a very great nation indeed.

There is one other thing which I think makes this legislation appropriate at this time. Just this week I think we celebrated the beginning of the space age. I remember the joint session of Congress when our first astronaut, John Glenn, appeared before us and made his very stirring address. I sat there thinking of how close this man was to Columbus with the same type of dedication and sense of exploring the unknown to find out what lay beyond what he could see with his eyes and feel with his hands, that this is the thing that has made man quite different from all the other creatures that inhabit this earth.

Columbus did indeed represent all of this and I think that we would do quite well by ourselves if we would mark the occasion by a national holiday.

I might say, Mr. Wiggins, I am not dedicated to what day of the week it might be celebrated on. I was interested in your observations about maybe realining the schedule of holidays.

It might very well be a very good suggestion as I see it.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Conyers?

Mr. CONYERS. I appreciate your statement very much.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory?

Mr. McCLORY. There are two types of bills before the committee. One would designate Columbus Day as a national holiday, period.

The other type would designate Columbus Day a holiday only in those States which have themselves already designated Columbus Day as a holiday.

Do you have a preference for one type of bill or the other?

Mr. Boggs. It is my understanding, and believe me, I am not sure that my facts are correct, that in the case of all holidays the State legislatures must assent for it to become a national holiday.

Mr. McCLORY. There are no Federal holidays in the strict sense. The only holidays are the ones that section 6103, title 5, United States Code, provides which affect the Federal employees and employees of the District of Columbia and civil service employees.

You indicate in your statement 37 other States have designated Columbus Day as a legal holiday.

Mr. Boggs. Yes.

Mr. McCLORY. If we pass the bill which Mr. McCarthy has introduced it would only provide Columbus Day shall be a holiday in the 37 States which have already designated it as a holiday whereas the other type of bill would designate it as a holiday in all 50 States.

Mr. Boggs. I suspect it would leave the matter optional with the other States to go along with the declaration of Columbus Day.

Mr. McCLORY. None of the bills that we have before us—

Mr. Boggs. What was done in the case of, let us say, Labor Day, do you know?

Mr. McCLORY. Yes, Labor Day is designated as a holiday in section 6103, title V. I assume that is the amendment that you would favor.

Mr. Boggs. I know in the case of my State we have a number of holidays that are purely State holidays. We celebrate, for instance, some of the Catholic religious days that are not observed in other States, like All Saints Day, November 1st.

Now, on that day in my State only the State institutions are closed. The national institutions, the post office, the national banks, and similar Federal agencies remain open. So there is a distinction between a National holiday and a State holiday.

I suspect this is true in other States in the Union.

But my answer to your question would be, yes, I think it would be well to follow the procedure that Congress heretofore has followed.

Mr. McCLORY. What happens in the State that has not designated the whole day as a holiday and the Federal Government has designated it as a holiday for Federal and civil service employees, the Federal employees are off and the State employees have to work, and vice versa? One we have not designated as a holiday as such at the Federal level, for instance when you have your individual State holidays in Louisiana, the State employees are off but the Federal employees have to work.

I would assume that it would be preferable to amend the same statutes which have been amended in the past in establishing holidays for Federal employees with the hope that the States would follow suit.

Mr. Boggs. I would defer to the judgment of this very distinguished committee in that regard. I would hope that the main thrust of this legislation would become law; namely, that we honor a man who was very great, indeed, in the history of this country.

Mr. McCLORY. We will do that, but also we respect your advice with regard to the uniform holiday legislation.

Mr. Boggs. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins.

Mr. WIGGINS. I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Boggs. We appreciate your coming. We will put your prepared statement in the record.

Mr. Boggs. If you please, thank you, sir.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. HALE BOGGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to appear before you this morning and testify on behalf of making Columbus Day a national holiday. Thirty-eight of our States already observe October 12 as a State holiday and it is most fitting in my judgment that we take the next logical step and give it national recognition to the great explorer who discovered this continent in 1492—over 400 years ago.

One of the first things that I learned as a boy was the inspiring story of how Christopher Columbus as a boy had sufficient self-confidence to challenge the dominant opinion of his day and successfully carry out one of history's greatest explorations. This man, an Italian by birth, received financial support from Spain and, with the assistance of the Portuguese sailors, launched a daring voyage to unexplored and unknown parts of the world. I have always felt that the courage displayed by Columbus, as well as his foresight should be recognized in some formal way by the people of the United States and I think a national holiday is the most fitting way to do this.

By honoring Columbus we not only testify to his character but we recognize the part played by Italians in our history and the contribution to American life made by Italian-Americans. We are, in the words of our late President, John F. Kennedy, a nation of immigrants and by honoring Columbus we recall that we derive our strength in this country from all nationalities who have mingled their efforts in a common effort to achieve our historic ideals.

We would also be giving national recognition to a holiday already observed by 37 States and Puerto Rico.

A national holiday such as the one proposed for October 12 gives all Americans a chance to pause and reflect upon the great achievements made by men such as Columbus and to rededicate ourselves to the principles that guided these great men.

It is for these reasons that I am delighted to join my good friend from New Jersey, Mr. Rodino in urging enactment of this legislation and I look forward to celebrating next October 12 as Columbus Day.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the Honorable Joshua Eilberg, author of H.R. 12900.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSHUA EILBERG, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. EILBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for calling me early as I had previously requested because I do have a subcommittee hearing which I must attend.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to make this statement in support of H.R. 12900, a bill to make Columbus Day a legal holiday.

It seems to me that such a move is long overdue. All of us are fully aware of our debt of gratitude to this great and gifted son of Genoa who discovered America. I consider it entirely appropriate to honor his name by making the anniversary of his discovery a national legal holiday.

Congress, of course, cannot usurp the functions of the States by deciding the holidays which they shall observe; the President and the Congress may designate holidays only for Federal employees throughout the country and for the District of Columbia.

However, it is believed that if Columbus Day is made a Federal public holiday, those few remaining States that do not observe the day may be encouraged to do so.

I am aware that claims to the discovery of America have been made in behalf of St. Brendan of Ireland, Leif Ericson, Prince Madoc of Wales, Paul Knutson, and Henry Sinclair. The obscurity of these voyages, if they actually occurred, deprives them of significance. They had no social impact upon their times.

The voyages of Columbus, in contrast, were widely known. They encouraged other voyages of discovery. They were followed by colonization. Homes were built, towns were peopled, and governments were established. From all this there developed what we like to think of as the American dream.

As I see it, Columbus looms more important than ever, in this era, in consequence of what his heritage means to the American people. A humble sailor, with a bold idea and steadfast determination, he came across uncharted seas to an unknown land. He attained lasting fame and fleeting fortune and won for himself a glorious place in the pages of history.

The faith and courage of those who followed him remind us of the faith and courage of Columbus. In this spirit they eventually created our democracy, acclaimed throughout the free world as a government dedicated to the principles of freedom.

It is, of course, true that we in this Republic owe much to innumerable men and women who never enjoyed its blessings; but none has a better claim on our gratitude than this daring and dauntless explorer.

From his boyhood until his discovery of the New World, he had his eyes and mind fixed on dim and distant horizons. His trials and disappointments culminated in the greatest geographical discovery of all ages.

It is particularly fitting that an Italian navigator who used Spanish ships and Portuguese charts should be honored by the United States of America whose citizens are of even more varied origin.

This is the appropriate time for us to give Christopher Columbus the official and permanent national recognition that will be conferred by making the anniversary of his landing a national holiday.

I might say in reaction to the comments I have heard so far and questions raised by Congress McClory, that about 3 weeks ago I distributed a questionnaire to every householder in my congressional district and those replies are coming in thick and fast.

One of the questions was the question raised by Congressman McClory. I would say the residents of the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania are overwhelmingly in favor of the idea that he has expressed here this morning.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Eilberg.

Are there any questions?

Mr. CONYERS. I commend my colleague for his very excellent statement. I note that he is the first to raise not only the fact that there is some Irish claim to the discovery of this country but he names St. Brendan.

I don't know how much detail is involved in this but I thought that somewhere there would come the question of Ireland's contribution in discovering this country. I think we are at least getting a

little more evidence on the multiplicity of claims that have been laid for this great discovery.

I thank him for his testimony

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory.

Mr. McCLORY. I want to thank the gentleman for his excellent statement and also for his expressions of support for the uniform Monday holiday bill as fortified by the results of his questionnaire circulated in the Fourth District of Pennsylvania.

I would like to ask this question. When a new holiday is established, it takes a little time to adjust and to make arrangements for a celebration and for recognition. Do you have an idea as to the effective date of Columbus Day if the Congress should establish it as a legal holiday?

Mr. EILBERG. I have not studied the problems involved but I certainly agree with Congressman Rooney that it should be done as quickly as possible.

Mr. McCLORY. In order to enable the States to follow suit with regard to whatever congressional action might be taken, should we not allow the State legislature to meet and decide whether they want to adopt the Federal designation?

Mr. EILBERG. I would not answer that question affirmatively because I suspect many of the States would not be meeting next year which would mean the implementation of this idea would be several years off if we follow the suggestion that you have offered.

Mr. McCLORY. We have the question about the people making up the calendar. If we think about the schools that set aside the holidays for school ceremonies and labor contracts which are negotiated with regard to national holidays and things of that nature, don't you think a delay of 2 years or so would be in order?

Mr. EILBERG. I certainly agree that the subjects raised by you should be carefully studied. I just don't know the length of time that would be required. Rather than fix a period that would be longer than necessary, I would rather have more information on those points, myself.

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you very much.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins.

Mr. WIGGINS. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Eilberg. We appreciate receiving your testimony.

Our next witness is the Honorable Joseph G. Minish, who is the author of H.R. 877.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH G. MINISH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. MINISH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am grateful to have this opportunity to testify on my bill, H.R. 877, declaring Columbus Day, October 12, to be a national holiday.

In view of my ancestry this is a cause that is close to my heart, but the proper celebration of Columbus Day is by no means of interest only to Americans of Italian descent. All of us owe our civilization and way of life to Christopher Columbus who opened the door to the New World and thus all Americans would wish to pay honor to him.

Let us reflect on the courage and determination of this giant of a man, Christopher Columbus. It can truthfully be said of Columbus that he doubled the size of the known world. If exploration is to be judged by its results, he was the greatest explorer who ever lived, or ever will live until such time as men adventure through space to the other planets.

If exploration is to be judged by daring, Columbus, who led an unwilling crew in three small ships into an unknown ocean, peopled with all sorts of legendary monsters and dangers, surely yields to no man in history.

If exploration is to be judged by sheer determination, again no man can be ranked higher than Columbus, whose life from boyhood was dedicated to the project of sailing westward to find the Indies, who struggled against poverty, argued with geographers and sailors, and coped with court intrigues until he enlisted the enthusiastic support of a queen and a court treasurer; who kept his rebellious and fearful crew on the westward course until his ships reached what all supposed to be the Indies of his dreams.

If exploration is to be judged by motive, what motives could be higher than those of Co'lumbus, who without thought of personal gain or power, sailed forth into the void in service to Spain, to mankind, and to God?

Mr. Chairman, at no time were Christopher Columbus' singular virtues more needed than today, as we face new worlds of space, new worlds of scientific discovery, new worlds of human relationships.

In addition, by honoring this great adventurer, the United States will emphasize its ties with the Latin American nations of the New World, 17 of which observe Columbus Day as a national holiday, and with the European lands from which Columbus and his men sailed.

A practical aspect of this issue is that it is a convenience for any form of interstate business if the holidays in our country at least approach uniformity of observance. Today most every State observes Columbus Day in one form or another, ranging from almost a complete shutdown of commerce, to the closing of State offices or public schools.

Since 35 States do assign October 12 the status of a legal State holiday, I think it would contribute to the general well-being and convenience if the holiday were made uniform across the entire country. My proposal is that we in Congress do our part toward that end.

October 12 is a date of the utmost significance to America. The time is long overdue for us to extend to Christopher Columbus the official and permanent recognition that will be conferred by making the anniversary of his historic landing a national holiday.

May I respectfully urge your approval of this longstanding proposal to pay fitting tribute to Columbus, the discoverer of our beloved America.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify here this morning.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Minish.

Do you have any questions, Mr. Conyers?

Mr. CONYERS. No, I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. JACOBS. I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory?

Mr. McCLORY. I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins?

Mr. WIGGINS. I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Next we have the Honorable Hugh L. Carey of New York, author of H.R. 4701 and H.R. 4702.

STATEMENT OF HON. HUGH L. CAREY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. CAREY. I have a brief statement which I would like to submit for the record.

As you indicated I am the author of one bill, one to recognize the existing fact that Columbus Day is accepted as a holiday among the majority of publicly employed people in the States and localities so that we face the anomaly that all of the government people are out celebrating Columbus Day in these 37 areas and the forlorn Federal employee is left at his desk practically with nothing to do because I think it is an understood fact that State and local government employees conduct a great deal of their business with Federal employees who are their counterparts, and when the State and local employees are enjoying this holiday the Federal employees, I think at very best, can carry on limited functions.

So, I suggest we could very well recognize existing facts by giving the Federal employees the same kind of treatment which has now been accorded the State employee in the region in which he is working.

I think there is a great deal of merit in this approach.

However, I also suggest that the time has come for the recognition that Columbus as an explorer deserves the recognition of all Americans for his intrepid exploits and that we as a nation deeply in need of recognition of our common heritage should select this, the 475th anniversary of this exploration, to program this as a great national holiday for all Americans.

Since the committee has so actively discussed this in terms of other explorers who may have touched this land in the past, of possible Irish and Norwegian heritage, let me suggest also, Mr. Chairman, that I am the author of one of the bills which you so wisely and fortuitously enacted in previous years to mark October 9 as a permanent day for proclamation of the discovery voyage of Leif Erickson. So I am carrying water on both shoulders.

My Norwegian-Americans parade on May 17 and my Italian-Americans parade on October 12. So there is no great conflict. We have almost a half a year to get over the results and effects of the celebration.

I would say with salutary effect I hope that I don't think the time has come to recognize St. Brendan's exploits for a day of exploration or a day of discovery on behalf of the Irish. Although the Irish are sturdy and rigorous people and able to undertake great physical effort without too much harm, I don't think the country is ready for two St. Patrick's Days in one year. I think this would have a telling effect on the population. Since we have one St. Patrick's Day and since the Norwegians are celebrating October 9, I think it is only fair to join together and suggest that we could all celebrate the discovery of America on October 12 without regard to who got there first.

It has been wisely said by at least one commentator that when you think of St. Brendan's exploits and Eric the Red's son, Leif Ericson's exploits and Columbus' discovery, it might be suggested that no matter who said he discovered America first, when Columbus discovered America it stayed discovered.

I think this is the reason why at this time we should very seriously indicate that we are ready to accord to this great explorer the deserving tribute which he has always had in the minds and hearts of Americans.

And on a very serious note, Mr. Chairman, let me suggest that there was never a better time for us to emphasize our heritage to the great powers of the world that existed at the time of Columbus' discovery. I think it could be said by any historian that this was in fact an exploit by a great scientific navigator and a true leader but like all great exploits he could not do it alone. Legend and history tell us when he went to Galway he picked up an Irish navigator so he would be kept on his true course and his crew was manned by people of many nationalities.

I think it is a reliable fact that there were in the crew a number of Negroes, possibly some of Moorish ancestry from Spain, African descendants, Spanish and Portuguese as has been suggested.

So I think there is enough in this Columbus saga for all of us to take a measure of comfort in the way America was discovered and the result of his great voyage.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the committee would be very wise, as has been the committee's history in the past, to take this opportunity to reach back into our glorious past and pay due honor and tribute to Columbus in this great year.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Carey. We certainly appreciate receiving your statement and your testimony on the two proposals you have introduced.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. HUGH L. CAREY, REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity you have extended to me to appear before the Committee today in support of legislation that would designate October 12 of each year a legal holiday in honor of Christopher Columbus and the discovery of the New World.

Today I appear in support of two measures which I introduced earlier this year concerning this proposal.

The first, H.R. 4701, would designate Columbus Day a holiday for officers and employees of the United States in each State in which it is now celebrated as a legal State holiday.

The second, H.R. 4702, would establish October 12 as a legal holiday throughout the United States.

So far as the former is concerned, it would seem only prudent and practical to recognize that the only persons not participating in community activities on October 12 are Federal employees who remain in their offices while those of state and local governments, business firms and private organizations are paying their annual and laudable tribute to the Great Navigator.

It is, of course, my feeling that the time has long since passed when the entire nation should acknowledge the vital role played by Columbus in the beginning of our country and pay its proper tribute to him. Should the Committee and the Congress concur in this view—and I am hopeful that such will be the case—then the reasons underlying the introduction of this initial measure will no longer obtain.

The reluctance of the Committee to approve legislation creating national holidays is understandable and commendable. I agree with the Committee's position,

as stated by the Chairman a few years ago, that unless the occasion called for is of national scope and widespread significance and serving the Nation as a whole, it cannot be considered favorably for to do so would be to diminish the significance of such occasions.

I submit that Columbus Day meets this criteria in every respect.

Columbus and his accomplishments represent the highest ideals of human achievement which we traditionally revere. His determination in the face of overwhelming odds, his unflinching courage and unwavering faith are qualities found in all our national heroes. His discovery of the New World actually qualifies him as the first American. Further, every school child in America is familiar with the fact that Columbus discovered America on October 12, 1492. What other event in our history can compare in magnitude with that discovery?

The question before us today—making Columbus Day a legal holiday—has long held the interest of the Congress and the American people. As a New Yorker I am proud, indeed, that the first celebration of the discovery of America took place in New York City on October 12, 1792, shortly after the end of the American Revolution.

As early as 1892 the Congress adopted a joint resolution directing the President to call upon the American people to observe the 400th anniversary of the Discovery of the New World.

In 1906 the first effort was made by the Congress to establish the holiday in areas under Federal jurisdiction.

A joint resolution was passed in 1934 which directed the President to proclaim October 12 of each year as Columbus Day.

Next week we will celebrate the 475th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World. I can think of nothing more timely or appropriate than the favorable action by this Committee on legislation that will afford national recognition of this momentous event by making final and binding the annual proclamation that October 12 of each year be declared a national and legal holiday throughout the country in honor of Christopher Columbus. Failing such action, it would be my hope that the Committee would accept my initial measure granting such a holiday to Federal workers in those states where it is presently celebrated.

Mr. ROGERS. Are there any questions, Mr. Conyers?

Mr. CONYERS. No, Mr. Chairman, except to thank our colleague from New York for his effective efforts this morning. We appreciate his testimony.

Mr. CAREY. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. JACOBS. I have no questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory?

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you for your illuminating statement, Mr. Carey.

Would you indicate to the Committee which of the two approaches in your bills you prefer, the one that designates Columbus Day in 50 States, or the one that designates it in 37 or 38 States?

Mr. CAREY. I would prefer Columbus Day as a national legal holiday, but my fallback position is at least a recognition it is a holiday now in 37 States and we should not leave the Italian-Americans and all Federal employees sitting in their offices watching the parade go by where they actually should be participating in the celebration.

Mr. McCLORY. Do you know any other Federal holiday for Federal employees where that has been observed, where some of the Federal employees have a holiday and others do not?

Mr. CAREY. I don't know of any case where some Federal employees have a holiday and others do not. I am not suggesting that.

Mr. McCLORY. If we observe it in the 37 States, then in the other 13 States they would still be working, would they not?

Mr. CAREY. I would think that very outstanding organization, the American Federation of Government Employees, would seize on that

fact and rather soon you would be back here with a companion bill to add the other 13 States. It would be a good beginning. I foresee it would eventually become a national legal holiday.

Mr. McCLODY. I think you were here earlier when I made reference to a letter from Chairman Macy of the Civil Service Commission indicating that the loss of expense to the Federal Government by adding this additional holiday would be in the neighborhood of \$90 million.

I gather from what you have said that where Federal employees work on Columbus Day and State employees are off, that in your opinion the Federal employees do not do much work on that day.

Were you indicating by that that there was a loss which is being sustained at the present time by not designating Columbus Day as a holiday?

Mr. CAREY. Yes.

Mr. McCLODY. And there would be a greater work product on Columbus Day if we designated Columbus Day as a holiday?

Mr. CAREY. Yes. I think we could distinguish what I have said from what you have just said in this regard.

I did not mean to imply that the Federal employees are sitting around and doing nothing. I meant to convey the impression that it is impossible for them to carry out their ordained functions because so much of the Federal business is conducted with local and State officials.

Since the local and State officials are not there to transact business with, there is a limited work product that the Federal employees can turn out. Therefore, I suggest to Commissioner Macy that this \$90 million loss is somewhat illusory; that this amount of work is not going on now.

Realistically, I think we could also come to the conclusion that those who have families where some of them are employed by the State and some employed by the Federal Government, some may take annual or sick leave on this day.

There is a question in my mind as to how real is this \$90 million alleged loss.

Mr. McCLODY. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins?

Mr. WIGGINS. Mr. Carey, it seems to me that one of the principal decisions this Subcommittee is going to have to make is to decide what precisely we are going to celebrate. We are either going to celebrate national groups because of their great contribution to the development of the United States, and if that is the thing we are going to celebrate, Columbus Day would probably be an inappropriate vehicle to do so, notwithstanding the varied background of the crew of that vessel.

On the other hand, if we are going to celebrate the discovery of this hemisphere, this continent, it might also be that Columbus Day is an inappropriate vehicle for that purpose because in time there may become absolute evidence that he did not discover this continent.

What would be your suggestion to having a Discovers Day, or some other title, sometime early in October to recognize the discovery of this hemisphere, rather than a Columbus Day, as such?

Mr. CAREY. I think that suggestion merits great consideration. We are, as you say, in effect marking the event of discovery as much as we are paying tribute to the man. I am willing, however, to risk, I am willing to speculate, that when the cold and penultimate fact of dis-

covery is finally ascertained through unassailable scientific evidence, that I am sure Columbus will hold his own.

As I said, Amerigo Vespucci made a tremendous voyage and contribution, and we named the whole continent, north and south, for him. I am sure, however, that scientific evidence will one day set forth the fact unassailable, as I suggest that Columbus made this enormous, great, personal contribution in 1492.

For that reason, I think the Italian-Americans and all Americans would be willing to celebrate the act and fact of discovery. I am sure that on this day Columbus could more than hold his own with any other legendary heroes that might be presented to us in later years.

Mr. WIGGINS. If a day were set aside early in October to celebrate the discovery of America, whether it be called Columbus Day or some other day, do you think consideration should be given to moving one of the other fall holidays, one that has the least significance on a particular date, which would probably be Veterans Day, into the spring in order to achieve some balance in our national holidays?

Mr. CAREY. I would yield to the committee's wisdom in this regard. However, as Congressman Rooney has suggested, the age of cybernetics is coming closer upon us and the 35-hour workweek is already a reality, and the number of holidays in a given year may well be a matter of negotiation between collective bargaining sides, labor and management, beyond the compass of the Federal action in this regard.

I would just point out that we already have Memorial Day in the spring in May, and this sort of balances the year for the veterans groups. We have the fall marking the armistice, it used to be Armistice Day. We now call it Veterans Day. In the fall we pay tribute to the fallen veterans. No matter which side of the calendar you work on, you will find a plenitude of Americans in the future.

Mr. WIGGINS. We could call it All Nations Day, or Immigrants Day, so that we can take care of all the various national groups who make their contribution to the United States.

Mr. CAREY. I think this would be a wonderful thing. I would think nothing more colorful in America, and frankly, attractive for our people at this time, than to have the people who have come from all over the world to make America parading on given avenues in the States and cities. We have enough avenues in New York City.

We could have the Norwegians parading in Brooklyn and Italians parading in Manhattan and the Irish parading in Queens. We could have a glorious time on Discovery Day. I am all for these parades.

I am suggesting if we do this, we would have the most glorious holiday ever seen in America, with everybody parading at once. What a wonderful way to celebrate peace.

Mr. WIGGINS. Thank you.

Mr. CAREY. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Carey.

Our next witness is the Honorable George Miller.

Mr. Miller, inasmuch as I think you claim to be descended from those in Genoa, where Columbus first started, and you are chairman of the Space Committee, I think you should be complimented on your many endeavors in overseeing our space program. It took great courage, the same as Christopher Columbus when he started across the ocean.

STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE MILLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do not have a prepared statement. I know that in preparing a statement I would have had to go over a great deal of the ground already effectively covered.

I see that Mr. Carey has left. He stole part of my thunder. I was going to introduce Amerigo Vespucci to you, the man after whom America is named, and who discovered among other things what is now Cape Kennedy.

You might be interested in knowing there is a plaque down there to that effect.

Mr. ROGERS. He also drew a map.

Mr. MILLER. He was a great cartographer. They gave his name to the Western Hemisphere, the continents in the Western Hemisphere, North and South America. So the Italians, you see, have made many contributions to our hemisphere.

I find myself in a middle position. I am half Irish and half Italian, and I can do a pretty good battle within myself on the controversy of St. Brendan versus Christopher Columbus in the Discovery of America.

I do believe that it is fitting that Christopher Columbus, the man who discovered America, be honored. Some 30-odd States have already taken this action. My own State of California—I don't know when it was, but I think it must have been about 30 years ago—established Columbus Day as a legal holiday. There is no question that Columbus was the man who discovered and reported back the existence of the Western Hemisphere; however, there might have been others who landed here earlier than he did.

As Mr. Carey told you, St. Brendan for the Irish is supposed to have been here very early. Unquestionably Leif Ericson was here. The Portuguese for years fished off the Grand Banks long before America was discovered. I dare say some of them may have been blown ashore in a storm and died on the coast of New England.

On the other hand, Columbus is the only one who brought back the knowledge of his discovery, and as a result of that, started the trend of immigration into this country.

I was interested in Mr. Wiggins' question as to whether we should have an Immigrants Day or not. Now who in the United States would not be eligible to celebrate that day? As I look at you, I can't see that any of your ancestors were indigenous to this country, so we are all immigrants.

Mr. WIGGINS. I am part Indian. I don't know what day I should celebrate.

Mr. MILLER. If that is so, I will have to excuse you as the one exception.

Mr. McCLORY. As I understand, the Indians immigrated to this continent from Asia and they are immigrants in a sense, too.

Mr. MILLER. There is some question as to that. I don't know that it has been definitely established that they came from Asia. Some scholars hold that they came to this country across the South Pacific, landing in South America and then migrated to the north.

Be that as it may, they weren't here originally. So we are all immigrants in this country. But we have already recognized Columbus

as having been first. The very district in which the National Capital is located in the District of Columbia. It is commemorated in other places named for him. His work has been commemorated in many ways.

Columbus was a great scientist. Those of you who might have read his life remember that he spent about 3 years in the Azores Islands before he undertook his trip, studying tides and winds. This he did as part of a group that had been put together in Portugal by King Henry, the navigator, sort of a NASA, to study the world.

He brought the best cartographers there. He brought shipbuilders there, and the *Caravel* came out of it, the first form of a ship, as we know it today, the basis for our present ships. Columbus had gone down there to study at this institution, or to work at it, to familiarize himself with what had taken place.

The scientists of the day knew the world was round. He knew it was round although many people still denied it. Fortunately, as Mr. Wiggins knows, we can now take a picture of the earth with the shoulder of the moon in the foreground, 234,000 miles out, that pretty well shows the earth is round. But there are still those who have doubts about it. They just can't see over the horizon.

Getting back to Columbus he did sail west into the unknown. It was his leadership and forcefulness that drove him on when his crews threatened to revolt, to mutiny. Then they discovered land.

Later on he made five other voyages to this country. Like all great men, he fell into disfavor and returned from the last one in chains. But he made the world-shaking discovery that again brought into being two great continents, two great continents that are returning to the world democracy in which the whole concept of government has been changed.

We are proud of this and it is through his discovery that our heritage has been made popular. I think it fitting that we devote this day to him in recognition of what he did, and secondarily in recognition of the many other men who have courage to risk their lives just as our astronauts have today in the interest of science, in the interest of discovery, that the people of the earth may have a better place in which to live.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Miller. We appreciate your testimony in support of this legislation.

Mr. Conyers?

Mr. CONYERS. I think the testimony of our chairman from California has been the most thought provoking I have heard this morning. I am deeply grateful that he would stay with the committee this long—obviously his schedule is a very demanding one—because of his interest to stay as long as he has to share with us many of the illuminating points that he has raised that concern the history of the subject of this bill. We are grateful to you.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Conyers.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. JACOBS. Again I wish to second the sentiments of my colleague from Michigan. I thank the gentleman for his testimony.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. McClory?

Mr. McCLORY. In addition to commending the gentleman on his illuminating and helpful testimony, I would also like to indicate that the gentleman's position in the Congress and his great deal of prestige to this movement to recognize Columbus Day or Discoverer's Day thus compels a full, careful and earnest consideration of this measure by the committee.

The gentleman from California has been very forward looking in his legislative endeavors in recognizing that our Nation can move ahead only through scientific progress and by recognizing in legislation the importance of being a nation on the move, with its sights set high and its path straight and far reaching into the future.

So I am very encouraged by the statement that the gentleman makes here this morning and very impressed by the comments he has made.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins?

Mr. WIGGINS. Just to comment to my distinguished colleague from California, it just occurs to me, Mr. Miller, that we recognize Christopher Columbus; yet we also recognize that he would not have made that voyage but for the farsightedness of someone in Spain who was willing to finance that voyage.

My guess is that a long time ago there was a George Miller on the staff of Queen Isabella that advised and recommended to the Queen that she should finance this voyage, a person similar to yourself who really deserves recognition.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. His name would have had to have been Melino in that case.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Miller. We appreciate your testimony.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is the Honorable Harold D. Donohue, of Massachusetts, author of H.R. 7532.

STATEMENT OF HON. HAROLD D. DONOHUE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. DONOHUE. Mr. Chairman, may I first be permitted to extend the very deep gratitude of thousands of my constituents and myself to you and the esteemed members of this distinguished committee for taking the time, in an extremely busy schedule, to conduct this hearing on the bill I introduced, H.R. 7532, and so many other identical bills designed to make Columbus Day a national legal holiday.

Let me please make it very clear, right now, that I am primarily interested in, and concerned with, your consideration and approval of the objective contained in each of these bills before you, and that is, to make Columbus Day a national holiday.

Whatever particular bill you select from those before you today, or if you decide to present a committee bill, is of no concern so long as it contains the fundamental objective recommended in each of the measures being reviewed.

May I express my very deep belief that there is overwhelmingly strong sentiment throughout the United States for the enactment of this legislation, not only to honor Columbus, but also as a well-merited tribute to the millions of Italian-Americans who have contributed and who continue to contribute so substantially to the progress and development of the United States.

It has been authoritatively observed that there are now some 35 States in the country that have already granted some degree of recognition to Columbus Day, and I think you will agree that this fact is substantial evidence of the great desire of the majority of the American people to have special, national recognition, as a holiday, given to Columbus Day.

The tremendous meaning which Columbus Day holds for all Americans cannot be denied, and I believe it ought to be formally emphasized by the Congress.

To our people, Columbus represents not only the starting point of our Nation, but he is truly the symbol of a great and persevering heroic spirit who cared to penetrate great and unknown dangers in his search of "a better way."

It is this mighty spirit that is responsible for our remarkable national growth and development into the greatest and best land on earth. And it is of this Columbian spirit and heart that we must be ever mindful if this country and our people are to successfully meet the great challenges and responsibilities that face and rest upon us in this dangerous period in our history.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption of this measure would, of course, also demonstrate, in a concrete and effective way, the appreciation and gratitude of this country for the great contributions to our national welfare and development made by Italian-Americans, in war and in peace, since 1492.

The historical record of Italian-Americans in furthering our American progress in free government, in music, in the sciences, in the professions, in the arts, and at every other level of our national life is unsurpassed by any other segment of our population.

I was born and have lived and worked among Italian-Americans all my life and down through the years have personally observed and admired their unwavering religious devotion, their high standards of individual conduct, their traditional family fidelity, their energetic participation in all community projects and their intense patriotic dedication to our national principles and purposes.

Christopher Columbus and the Italian-Americans are eminently worthy and deserving of the special honor and recognition proposed by my bill and all the similar bills now pending before you. Therefore, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I most earnestly urge and hope that you will favorably consider and recommend the prompt enactment of this legislation by the Congress.

May I again express my appreciation for the opportunity to present this testimony to the committee.

Mr. ROGERS. We appreciate receiving your testimony in support of this legislation.

Mr. DONOHUE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. We will insert the remarks of the Honorable Cornelius E. Gallagher in the record at this point.

We will also place in the record the statements of the Honorable James J. Howard of New Jersey, the Honorable Richard D. McCarthy of New York, the Honorable Carleton J. King of New York, the

Honorable Harold Collier of Illinois, and the Honorable Henry Helstoski of New Jersey.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF HON. CORNELIUS E. GALLAGHER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for this opportunity to testify on behalf of my bill to designate Columbus Day, October 12th, as a national Holiday. I also wish to commend this Committee for its recognition of the great desire manifesting itself throughout the country to have Columbus Day officially recognized. I might add that the time could not be more appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, I have introduced legislation to make Columbus Day a national holiday in every Congress since my first days in the Congress. It is gratifying to see this long effort so close to fruition.

We have had many great men come from Italy. Many of the outstanding names that grace the annals of history—men of science, of literature, of the arts, and of God—were Italian. Many of the most prominent Americans have come from Italian heritage. The Italian immigrant along with his brothers from Ireland, Poland, England and Czechoslovakia and the other hundreds of lands, built America to her greatness of today. And it is the sons and daughters of those immigrants who continue to build our country for they have become part of the land.

But, Mr. Chairman, there is one man who is most responsible and who made America possible by his daring, his foresight and his courage. Christopher Columbus sailed an uncharted sea in three small ships to find a new land. He brought back to the "civilized world" the knowledge and appreciation of a new horizon.

Mr. Chairman, by giving formal recognition to Columbus Day, we may give new impetus to the very act of discovering America. We would give an impetus and opportunity for all Americans to find and see for themselves the incredible richness and diversity contained within our borders.

The President recently inaugurated a "Discover America" program, and I think this Columbus Day would be a most appropriate and fitting reminder of that effort. After all, Columbus was the first to undertake a "Discover America" trip.

Many people today view our world as emotionally and intellectually "flat." As Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Invasion of Privacy, I have heard much testimony highlighting the aridness and lack of adventure that our nation seems to offer some of its most thoughtful men. Many complain that America and our society is becoming depersonalized and anti-individual. I feel that a day set aside to praise a single lonely adventurer, who set out to cross an unknown sea that many told him would only result in his falling off the end of the earth, would give some recognition to the indomitable human spirit that still resides in the heart of America. Columbus Day should stand for the one individual who sets out on a course he believes in without fear and in spite of those who timidly advise against.

A day honoring Christopher Columbus would suggest to many Americans that we were discovered by a man who strove ill-equipped and against the soundest academic advice of his time, to fulfill a dream of his own. Surely this man deserves recognition for refusing to submerge his individual search in the larger endeavor.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that almost every country in Latin America and South America celebrates Columbus' birthday as a national holiday. Yet, the United States, the nation that has reaped such abundance from Columbus' discovery, does not extend such recognition. We honor the Father of Our Country, but we deny our thanks to the one man who made it all possible.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot urge too strongly that this Subcommittee act favorably on this legislation to set aside one day to honor Christopher Columbus.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES J. HOWARD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

It gives me great pleasure to be able to come before you this morning to urge you to make Columbus Day, October 12, a national holiday.

I believe that there are several substantial reasons for the passage of this resolution.

First, we would be honoring Christopher Columbus, a man of character and achievement. He was a visionary, but a visionary with the perseverance and tact to see his dream come true in spite of seemingly unsurmountable odds. In this respect Columbus was not much different from the man of today who sees the realization of his dream blocked by obstacles which he must struggle to overcome or let his dream fade into oblivion. Christopher Columbus is an inspiration to all such men.

Yet in a larger sense we honor not only Columbus, the man, on October 12. We honor his deed, the discovery of America. While various people believe that various explorers actually did discover America, and historians themselves are not sure, it makes little difference who initially claimed this land.

The United States, founded on the land that Columbus discovered has become a melting pot not without parallel to Columbus himself. Christopher Columbus, and Italian, sailed for the Spanish. The New World he discovered was colonized by the Spanish and Portuguese, and later by the English, French, and Scandinavians. During the centuries that followed, America opened its "golden door" to the tired, poor, and "huddled masses yearning to be free" of the entire world.

President Franklin Roosevelt reminded us that "All of our people all over the country—except the pure-blooded Indians—are immigrants or descendants of immigrants." Our late beloved President, John Kennedy reiterated this conviction when he told us that we are a "nation of immigrants." Had it not been for Columbus, our history would have been vastly different, and I venture to say, less noble.

In recognizing the contribution of Columbus, the United States Congress has been outdistanced by thirty-seven of our fifty states, Puerto Rico, and sixteen of our neighboring republics who have already made Columbus Day a legal holiday.

We Americans would be remiss not to acknowledge the man who brought the discovery of the New World to the attention of the Old World, the perseverant visionary, Christopher Columbus. And I can think of no more fitting remembrance than establishing a national holiday in his honor.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HON. CARLETON J. KING, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, members of this distinguished committee, I am pleased to have this opportunity to submit for your consideration, my views concerning the importance of making Columbus Day, October 12, a national holiday.

The year 1967 marks the 475th anniversary of the discovery of the new world by Christopher Columbus. October 12, known to us all as Columbus Day, commemorate that event, and in many localities and states, it is a holiday. I believe the proposal I have introduced to give honor on a national basis to Christopher Columbus is completely justified as a reminder of the debt we owe this great navigator.

Although Christopher Columbus did not find it possible to remain on these shores in the true sense of a migrant, even in spite of three bold visits, he is responsible for initiating the steady flow of migrants from Europe. His charting the seaway to America permitted and stimulated the wave of explorers of many nationalities. On the heels of these brave explorers came the settlers. With the arrival of these colonists the pattern for American citizenship was established—a nation of many nationalities, of many traits and of many beliefs. They were a people dedicated to the principle of one nation, independent, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

What greater honor could we pay to the discoverer of our country than to pause each October 12 as we commemorate his birth date and think, too, of our forebearers for whom he opened the door of America. I believe the time has come when all Americans in every state and in every locality—Americans of all faiths and descendants of all nationalities should observe Columbus Day as a national holiday to be observed with fitting ceremonies.

Today, more than 500 years after Columbus' birth, he is known the world over as the discoverer of the New World. Throughout Latin America, he is honored with holiday festivities and other appropriate ceremonies, but we have no national way of recognizing his achievements in this country. We speak reverently of George Washington as the, "Father of our Country," we may speak equally as reverently of Christopher Columbus as the, "Father of our Continent".

It is my hope, Mr. Chairman, that your committee will favorably recommend this proposal and that prompt action will be taken by the Congress to enact the

necessary legislation to give all Americans an official holiday to commemorate his birth date and pay homage to Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the new world.

STATEMENT OF HON HAROLD R. COLLIER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the courtesy of Subcommittee No. 4 of the Committee on the Judiciary in granting me this opportunity to testify in behalf of H.R. 1492, of which I am the sponsor.

This bill, which I introduced on the opening day of the First Session of the Ninetieth Congress, would make October 12th of each year—Columbus Day—a legal public holiday to all intents and purposes and in the same manner as January 1st, February 22nd, May 30th, July 4th, the first Monday in September, November 11th, the fourth Thursday in November, and December 25th are now made by law public holidays. The days that I have just mentioned are, respectively, observed as New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

If my bill is enacted into law, all of the people of the United States would set aside one day each year to recall to mind the achievements of Christopher Columbus, to pay tribute to his perseverance, and to perpetuate his memory.

We are all familiar with the story of Columbus and the discovery of America. Briefly told, it began with his departure from Palos, Spain, at eight o'clock in the morning, August 3, 1492, with eighty-seven other men, aboard the *Santa Maria*, the *Pinta*, and the *Nina*. They reached the Canary Islands, near the western coast of Africa, August 12th and remained there until September 7th, when they began the long trip westward through unknown waters. Their last sight of land was at nightfall two days later.

They did not see land again until two o'clock on the morning of October 12th, five weeks after the party had left the Canaries and ten weeks after it had sailed from Palos.

Columbus' landing at San Salvador in the Bahamas 475 years ago this month is undoubtedly one of the few truly great days in the six millenia of recorded history. Certainly it is an important day in the annals of the Western Hemisphere and a most significant day in the drama of America. Just as the history of the world must begin with the account of the Creation, so the recitation of America's history must commence with the day that the Genoese navigator landed at San Salvador and took possession of the New World for Spain. What matters it that he was ignorant of the fact that he had found something entirely different from what he sought?

The *Santa Maria*, which was the largest of the three ships and the one on which Columbus himself sailed, was ninety feet long. Some modern liners about 1,000 feet in length, carry over 10,000 persons, and cross the Atlantic in less than five days. Jet airliners, carrying many more people than Columbus' entire fleet, make the trip in seven hours. Our astronauts, including Eugene Cernan from my own congressional district, have reduced the time even further. None of these accomplishments are mentioned in order to belittle Columbus; on the contrary, they might never have happened if the Admiral had not discovered America. Certainly they would have been postponed for many years, perhaps for centuries. There had to be a Christopher Columbus before there could be a Charles A. Lindbergh, an Alan B. Shepard, or a John H. Glenn.

There are some who will express objection to the proposal to add another holiday to those we already have, but October 12th is already a holiday in thirty-three of the fifty states that make up our Union, as well as in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Columbus Day is presently a legal or public holiday in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia. Discovery Day is a holiday in Indiana and North Dakota and Landing Day is a holiday in Wisconsin; both these days are observed on October 12th. These thirty-three states contain about four-fifths of the population of the United States. While Columbus Day is not a holiday in Arkansas and Oregon, it is observed as a memorial day in those two states.

The observance of Columbus Day is almost as old as our nation, the first celebration having been held on October 12, 1792, during the first administration of President George Washington, when New York City commemorated the tercentenary of the discovery of America. Exactly 100 years later, President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people of the United States to celebrate the 400th anniversary of that epochal event. During 1893 the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago. Columbus Day has been celebrated annually since 1920. Most of the people in this room will probably still be around a quarter of a century from now to note that half a milenium has gone by since Columbus and his men left their marks not only upon the sands of the New World but upon the pages of history.

Many Latin-American nations celebrate October 12th as the Dia de la Raza—Day of the Race—to honor their Spanish heritage. The Republic of Colombia was named for the great navigator and the Spanish form of his name has been perpetuated in the Republic of Panama, once a part of Colombia, where the second largest city was named Colon. That city's port, a town in the Canal Zone, is called Cristobal.

Here in the United States we have honored the memory of Columbus by designating the area that contains the seat of government as the District of Columbia. While the figure which surmounts the Capitol is called Freedom, it is actually a representation of Columbia.

Columbia was first used to describe the United States when Phillis Wheatley, a Negro slave in Massachusetts, wrote a poem in honor of George Washington. Philip Freneau popularized the term in several of the poems that he wrote during and after the American Revolution.

Two of our state capitals, Columbus, Ohio, and Columbia, South Carolina, were named in honor of the discoverer of America. The following other cities and towns bear similar names: Columbus in Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Texas, and Wisconsin; Columbia in Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee; Columbia City, Indiana; Columbia Heights, Minnesota; and Columbiana, Ohio.

North Carolina has a Columbus County, Ohio a Columbiana County, and each of the following states has a Columbia County: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Mr. Chairman, during the long history of the United States of America we have often paid deserved tribute to our greatest and most distinguished men. At times we have lavished tribute on lesser men that could well have been reserved for those who ought to have received honor instead. Christopher Columbus deserves honor just as our most eminent men have merited honor; certainly he ought to be more honored than the lesser men who have been honored to the point of idolatry.

STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY HELSTOSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on legislation which would establish Columbus Day as a legal holiday.

Your committee has several bills on this proposal and among them is my bill, H.R. 6481.

Mr. Chairman, Columbus Day is observed as a legal holiday in over two-thirds of the States and is celebrated in many of our neighboring Republics. It is entirely fitting that our Federal Government should join the States and neighboring nations in giving official recognition to this day.

The events that are marked by Columbus Day are worthy of celebration. The discovery made by Columbus, which in effect doubled the size of the world, is one of the major happenings of world history. Certainly no event in history can stir the heart of man by the magnitude of its daring, both of conception and of execution, and by its incalculable results to mankind.

Four hundred and seventy-five years have passed since that day in 1492 when Columbus discovered the New World and inaugurated a new era in human affairs. From that day the world moved forward toward greater freedom, achievement, and opportunity.

We have read in history of the many obstacles encountered by Columbus, the delays, mutiny, and threats against his life. His unconquerable spirit enabled him to carry on. Faith in the divine guidance enabled him to pursue steadfastly his chosen course until he reached the shores of the New World.

Columbus Day is very definitely a day of national interest and significance, the qualities which should be the first test of a national holiday. Our failure to place it in the highest category of American holidays can only be construed as an act of neglect and an example of man's ingratitude. Of all that we see around us, of all that we have, the wealth, the power and the glory, we know began with this remarkable Italian explorer and it is because of him, in the first instance, that we are able to walk here on American soil today.

Despite the great advances mankind has made since the days of Columbus, serious problems still confront us. There are goals that the world has not yet reached—peace, brotherhood, justice, and human dignity for all. The attainment of these goals will require the best efforts of all of us. It will demand those qualities which placed Columbus among the immortals—vision, courage, skill, and, above all, great faith.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the observance of Columbus Day as a national holiday would serve as both a reminder and an inspiration to the people of America and the free world—a reminder of the difficulties he faced and overcame with fortitude and perseverance and an inspiration for us to match his courage and faith in meeting the problems of our day.

This is perhaps a belated recognition of Columbus, but in this way our great Nation can pay tribute to its great discoverer and commemorate his accomplishment.

Somehow, in recent years the drama and emotion of this holiday has grown dim. But, we should not let this happen, for this celebration symbolizes not only the beginning of the New World but also the character of the man who was responsible. Christopher Columbus was the personification of courage and hope, bravery and vision.

Mr. Chairman, I urge your committee to take positive action on the several bills which would give Christopher Columbus a place of honor in the United States by having October 12th designated as a national holiday.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for permitting me to express my views on this legislation.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD D. MCCARTHY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of this committee, I am pleased to be here this morning to testify in support of H.R. 3926, a bill to establish Columbus Day as a legal holiday. I thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

On January 26 of this year, I introduced this bill, and I would like to preface my remarks with an expression of praise for this committee for taking action on this important matter.

My reasons for support of this bill are three:

- (1) To express our unity with our sixteen sister American republics who have declared Columbus Day a national holiday.
- (2) To memorialize the man, Christopher Columbus, Discoverer of the New World, Admiral of the Ocean Sea.
- (3) To recognize Columbus as a symbol of praise and recognition of his fellow countrymen—Italian-Americans.

Mr. Chairman, on October 10, 1965, Yale University announced the discovery of a map supporting the theory that Leif Erikson and his Vikings had set foot on the New World long before Columbus. This announcement rocked the traditional celebrations of Columbus Day, and sent a flurry of archeologists up and down the two continents searching for the clandestine remains of precolumbian visitors to these shores.

These developments have tended to obscure some basic facts.

No map, no new theories, no new discoveries, and no teams of scientists are needed to attest to the presence of Christopher Columbus and those who followed him. The peoples, the cities, and the industries which stretch in grandeur from the Arctic to the tip of Tierra del Fuego are living testimony to that event. No matter how many men in how many different ages had set foot on this land, it took a Columbus to touch it with the force that has created from the desperate wilderness two continents, the envies of their forebears.

In every major city south of Texas, the hand of Columbus and the heart of Spain are evident today.

For North America, it was mostly the news of Columbus' voyage reaching northern Europe that moved Englishmen, Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Scandinavians, and so many others to make the bold venture across the uncharted Atlantic.

To pass over this fact is to pass over the very source of greatness of this, indeed, New World.

It is ironic to note that although Erikson may have been the first to realize this was a new world, he clearly did not recognize its significance, and while Columbus clearly did not recognize this was a new world, his realization of its significance is what we today call the History of the Americas.

Mr. Chairman, as a tribute to this achievement, sixteen of our sister American republics have commemorated the founding of our continents by enshrining Columbus Day as a national holiday. As a gesture, then, of our unity and common heritage, I believe we should establish Columbus Day as a legal holiday.

Secondly, I believe making Columbus Day a legal holiday is a fitting tribute to Christopher Columbus, Discoverer of the New World, Admiral of the Ocean Sea.

Born somewhere between 1430 and 1456 in Genoa, Italy, the son of a cloth maker and tavern keeper, Dimenico Columbo; Christopher followed his father's trade until the age of 14 when he began his apprenticeship at sea.

This experience led him on to studies in Portugal of mapmaking and navigation, which eventually confirmed his suspicion that there was a western way to the Eastern World.

As I said before, we are all well acquainted with the results of this doubt.

The story of Columbus is, therefore, the story of America. He could not accept the answers and prejudices of the past. He could not be satisfied with tradition, but chose instead the challenge of the unknown. He was a prophecy of the American to come—the emigrant who left the security of the homeland for the hidden terrors of the wilderness—the emigrant who, from nothing, built the two great continents of North and South America.

And finally, to a particular group of those who came to these shores the name of Christopher Columbus has a special significance—the Italian-American Community.

For them, Columbus is the bridge of greatness from their ancient homeland, the birthplace of DaVinci, Michaelangelo, and the Medici. A native of Italy, Columbus is a special light of inspiration to this group which has contributed so much to the growth of this nation and especially to our cities.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, as a symbol of the unity of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, as a tribute to a great man of History, and as a gesture of praise and recognition to all Italian-Americans, I ask this Committee to favorably report this bill to make Columbus Day a legal holiday.

Mr. ROGERS. With that, the committee stands in recess until tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Thursday, October 5, 1967.)

(Additional statements submitted by Members of Congress:)

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM L. ST. ONGE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to present my views on my bill now under consideration before your Committee, H.R. 5350, declaring October 12 as a legal holiday, to be known as "Columbus Day." As sponsor of this measure, I wish also to express my gratitude to the Committee for scheduling these Hearings.

Columbus Day does more than pay respect to one of mankind's truly noble men, it indeed recognizes the triumph of human intellectual spirit over the prejudices of the mind. It is certainly most proper that the achievements of Christopher Columbus should be dignified by the establishment of a national holiday in his honor and his memory, but even more important is the need to derive annually inspiration from the achievements of his exploits. Columbus epitomizes the indomitable human will not to accept the physical world as it is, in the face of intellectual evidence to the contrary, and the courage to defend one's belief in this evidence.

Those who are unwilling to accept as inevitable war, racial bigotry, urban blight, and the multitudinous problems facing mankind are present-day disciples

of this great man. By establishing a national holiday in honor of Columbus we will have the opportunity each year to renew the determination to be victorious over the unknown and unconquered which is his lasting gift to all humanity.

Columbus Day is now observed in at least 37 States in the nation or about three-fourths of the total number of States. In addition, it is observed in the District of Columbia. Several States celebrate the occasion as Discovery Day, and in Arkansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin it is known as Landing Day. With so many States already observing this date as a holiday, it is only logical to extend its observance to the entire country. Besides noting the achievements of the "Admiral of the Ocean Seas", the celebration of Columbus Day as a national holiday would give well-deserved recognition to the very significant contributions made by our citizens of Italian ancestry. In a larger sense, it will serve as a permanent reminder that the greatness of our nation is founded upon the imagination, hard work, and sacrifices of the diverse ethnic groups who make up the national fabric.

STATEMENT OF HON. HERBERT TENZER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman and members of this distinguished Subcommittee, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you my views on legislation declaring Columbus Day a national legal holiday. When I introduced H.R. 10099 for these purposes, I joined with many colleagues in the House of Representatives who also feel that the time is long overdue to declare October 12 a national legal holiday.

We owe this persistent and courageous explorer of Italian birth a great indebtedness. Although the credit for first having set foot upon American soil has been claimed on behalf of others, no one will seriously question that it was Christopher Columbus who took the good news back to Europe.

The news spread quickly and adventurers and navigators began planning further exploration of this new frontier. It became common knowledge that land had been discovered. Be it Asia, as Columbus thought, or a whole new world, as it turned out to be, it was easier to get men and ships and money to sail west.

And so began the long chain of exploration and discovery that opened this land and laid the foundations for the nation we have today.

For all this we can thank Columbus. In honoring him on October 12, we are also honoring all those who have come from foreign shores to aid and strengthen our country.

We commemorate with legal holidays the anniversary of the independence of our nation, the termination of our wars, the men who fought in them, the successful harvest of the Massachusetts Pilgrims and the laboring men and women who have built the nation.

Certainly then it is fitting for us to dedicate a day to the man who told all the world about the land we live in and who simultaneously inspired our ancestry and founders to come here.

Already 37 of our 50 states observe this day as a holiday, as do 16 of our neighboring countries in the Americas. It is time for us to proclaim this day a holiday throughout the land and to observe it with fitting ceremonies and traditions as we do other holidays.

We all have reason to be reminded of the bravery and determination of our immigrant forebears. Just as Columbus stood out as an example to all the men and women who came to these shores, he and his followers should serve as an example to us as we work to preserve what they have built.

A sense of history renews and inspires us all and it is my sincere hope that this Subcommittee will take action to expedite the observance of Columbus Day across the nation.

STATEMENT OF HON. LEONARD FARBSTEIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Legislation to make Columbus Day, October 12th, a legal public holiday in the United States has been proposed time and again in the Congress. As is well known to this Committee, there are numerous current bills to this effect. I, myself, introduced such a bill, H.R. 10740, on June 12, 1967. I believe it is clear that many Members of the Congress feel strongly that the time has come to take decisive action to honor the memory of Christopher Columbus and to commemorate that tremendous event, his landing on the shores of America.

One after another, individual states of the United States have declared Columbus Day a local holiday until today we find a total of 35 states that recognize this day to be an occasion for special official celebrations. In most of the states, including my own state of New York, the day has long been a full public holiday, with the closing of banks, schools, government offices, and most businesses. Just this year, the Legislature of the State of New York passed a concurrent resolution memorializing the Congress to make this day a Federal public holiday.

Columbus was a Genoese by birth. For this reason, Italians and Americans of Italian descent take a particular pride in his achievements, and the Italians of New York City have taken a prominent part in celebrating his day with dinners and by parades.

Columbus lived long in Portugal, married in Portugal, and learned much of his seamanship from Portuguese navigators and Portuguese books. For this reason, the Portuguese in America are proud to claim their part in contributing to the success of his westward voyage across the uncharted seas.

Columbus sailed under the auspices of Queen Isabella of Spain. For this reason, those of Spanish descent feel that his triumph is their own.

Columbus great voyage of discovery was financed in great part, by Jewish wealth; and some of his crew members were men of this faith. Jewish citizens of America remember these facts with pride, and join whole-heartedly in the observance of Columbus Day.

To make Columbus Day a national holiday, though it would effect directly only United States government employees, and residents of the District of Columbia, would tend to bring about a most desirable consistency in the observance of the holiday throughout the United States. It is also believed that making Columbus Day a Federal holiday will move those few remaining states which do not observe this day to do so. As it stands today, one who travels from state to state over October 12th is likely to find himself surprised, and often greatly inconvenienced on account of the fact that some states do and others do not observe the day as a holiday. Where it is not a holiday, banks and many business operations are slowed down by the fact that the New York Stock Exchange and various other business and financial centers are observing the holiday.

A bill honoring the discoverer of the continents of the western hemisphere deserves the support of all Americans. An Italian navigator who used Spanish ships and Portuguese charts should be honored by the United States of America whose citizens are of even more varied origin. I believe making Columbus Day a national holiday would be a popular move. The move would also benefit interstate travel and commerce. I urge that the Committee report favorably on this bill.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES H. SCHEUER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Of all the explorations of the earth, the most important to the cause of Twentieth Century progress was that of Christopher Columbus, in 1492.

This, I believe, is a statement of fact, beyond question, surpassing in importance the spectacular controversy over the question of who, precisely, was the first non-American to make an appearance in the Western World.

There are, of course, many opinions on this other, inflammatory question: For years, Columbus was popularly regarded as the Father of the New World, without a rival in the field. Then the Norwegians came along, insisting that Leif Ericson preceded Columbus to America, and certain scientists agreed with this contention. Welsh observers also decided to rock to the boat, announcing that Columbus and Ericson were both a little late, and the real Father of our Country was in fact a Welshman, with the unlikely name of Madoc. Then, from Ireland came the declaration that all these other claims were false: that in point of fact the first explorer of the Western World was St. Brendan, of Irish lineage. Now, from the ranks of the anthropologists another cry comes forth, insisting that the first of the American continents to be explored by persons from other continents was South America, and that the job was done by the Japanese.

All of this is very confusing, of course, but it has no bearing on the importance of Columbus. Of all the explorers, he alone opened up communications between Europe and the American continents. By publicizing the importance of the New World, he set the stage for trans-oceanic trade and travel, on a grand scale, and

by so doing transformed the nature of human life in every land. Leif Ericson didn't do that! Madoc didn't do that! Neither did St. Brendan, nor the ancient Japanese. The only man who did—the only explorer of the New World to turn his work to the advantage of the Old—was Christopher Columbus; and for that reason he stands, alone, the giant of global discovery.

As of this moment, thirteen Latin American nations commemorate the birthday of Columbus, as such, and four others celebrate the "Day of the Race," falling on Columbus' birthday. For the United States to recognize the day as a National holiday would therefore be in keeping with established tradition throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The vision and courage of Columbus launched our Nation on the pathway to greatness, and for that we are indebted today. Indeed, the spirit of Columbus was seemingly contagious, urging ever onward an army of discovery: the Pilgrims, the Jamestown expedition, the great array that settled the Atlantic Coast, the daring invasion of the Old Northwest, the cross-country march to California—all were conceived in the spirit of Columbus and effected in the same spirit.

It was his work, his insight, and his dream that brought about creation of the great American colossus of the West: the land of liberty, the land of plenty, the land of just designs.

I have introduced H.R. 10536, to declare October 12—Columbus Day—a legal holiday. The bill is identical to H.R. 2372, introduced by our colleague Mr. Rodino, who has long been a leader in this fight. I certainly hope that this committee will see fit to report out a bill.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD L. OTTINGER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, I'm very pleased that this subcommittee is considering legislation to designate Columbus Day—October 12—as a national legal holiday and I appreciate having this opportunity to urge its favorable consideration.

Although such legislation was passed by the Senate in 1964, the House has failed to act. In the 89th Congress, for example, I introduced H.R. 7804. Unfortunately, however, this was not acted upon and died when we adjourned last October. Therefore, I reintroduced this bill—now H.R. 2009—on January 11 of this year.

At present, some 38 states and Puerto Rico celebrate October 12 as a holiday, in some manner or other, and I believe this clearly demonstrates significant official national interest and precedent. As a further indication of the great interest in having Columbus Day designated as a national legal holiday, I submit herewith, for inclusion in the record of these hearings, a copy of the resolution passed by the Westchester County New York Board of Supervisors in 1965 and a copy of the New York State Legislature's resolution of March 14, 1967. These two documents are just a few of the many visible manifestations of support and interest in this legislation.

Many people consider that October 12 is celebrated just to commemorate the day on which Christopher Columbus landed on Guanahani or, as he renamed it, San Salvador, thus becoming the first European to begin the development of the New World. While this is certainly true, I believe it is also an appropriate occasion on which to pay tribute to the many fine Americans of Italian origin or descent who have played such an important and significant role in the growth and greatness of this nation.

As we all well know, our children annually observe Columbus Day in their schools with special programs, pageants and speeches. Also, as a further precedent, October 12—known as Día de las Americas—is one of the most important holidays for our Latin American neighbors and in Spanish-speaking communities throughout this country.

I believe this legislation has broad-based support—from my many constituents who have written to me over the years to urge passage of this legislation to our President and Vice President; from judges, scientists and a wide variety of officials to white-collar employees, construction workers and housewives. It seems quite clear that there is a strong and intense interest in having Columbus Day placed on an equal basis with the eight present national holidays. If the Congress is to be truly reflective of the view of the majority on an issue, the course seems to be clear.

I am very pleased to support these efforts and hope the committee will give this legislation its fullest and most careful consideration with a view toward favorably reporting it.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION No. 154-1965 TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

Your Committee on Legislation has considered Resolution No. 143-1965, adopted by your Board on August 16, 1965, requesting support of bills now pending in Congress which would designate Columbus Day, October 12, as a national legal holiday.

There have been, over the years, many bills presented in both the Senate of the United States and the House of Representatives, all in support of designating Columbus Day as a national holiday, and like our other national holidays setting the day aside in recognition of a memorable event or personage. Your Committee feels that all Americans should indicate their interest and desire that this day, October 12, be added to those other important commemorative days, and offers the following resolution:

Whereas, the State of New York and the majority of other states recognize October 12, known as Columbus Day, as a legal holiday; and

Whereas, many businesses and industries also recognize and observe Columbus Day as a holiday; and

Whereas, it is fitting that honor and tribute should be paid to the great explorer, Christopher Columbus, who is renowned as the discoverer of America; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized to enact legislation, as set forth in S. 461 (Dodd) and H.R. 7804 (Ottinger), and/or any other bills previously considered and any amendments thereto whose main purpose and objective is to designate the 12th day of October in each year as a legal public holiday; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the members of the Senate from the State of New York, and to the members of the House of Representatives from the 25th and 26th Congressional Districts of the State of New York.

Dated, October 4, 1965.

GEORGE D. BUCKLEY,
ROBERT J. STERLING,
ROBERT J. MCCARTHY,
EARLE L. VAIL,
JOHN F. REED, JR.,
CHARLES J. COOK,
SALVATORE H. MIGLIACCO,

*Committee on Legislation, Board of Supervisors,
Westchester County, New York.*

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of Westchester, ss:

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing Resolution No. 154-1965 with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of the said original Resolution, which was duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County, on October 4, 1965.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of said Board of Supervisors, October 5, 1965.

ELMER J. MALONEY,
Clerk, Board of Supervisors.

STATE OF NEW YORK IN SENATE, ALBANY, RESOLUTION No. 43, MARCH 14, 1967

BY MR. GIOFFRE: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE COLUMBUS DAY, THE TWELFTH DAY OF OCTOBER, A FEDERAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Whereas, For many years the state of New York has accorded recognition to the great discoverer of this land, Christopher Columbus, by providing by law

that the twelfth day of October in each year, the anniversary date of his discovery, be a legal public holiday in this state; and

Whereas, Although many other states have also made Columbus Day a legal holiday, the government of the United States has not provided the same recognition to that intrepid and famous explorer who met and conquered the then as yet uncharted extremities of the endless seas by making Columbus Day a federal legal public holiday; and

Whereas, It is just and fitting that Christopher Columbus be similarly honored federally for his memorable voyage and discovery of America; now, therefore, be it

Resolved (if the Assembly concur). That the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby respectfully memorialized to enact suitable legislation to make Columbus Day, the twelfth day of October, a federal legal public holiday; and be it further

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Congress of the United States by forwarding one copy thereof to the Secretary of the Senate, one copy to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and one copy to each member of the Congress from the State of New York.

By order of the Senate,

ALBERT J. ABRAMS, *Secretary.*

In Assembly, March 22, 1967, Concurred in without amendment. By order of Assembly, John T. McKellan.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES J. DELANEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to present my views in favor of H. R. 2372, which would make Columbus Day, October 12, legal holiday.

As I understand, the guide to a national holiday requires that the occasion be national in scope, of widespread significance, and serve the nation as a whole. I believe this is an excellent guide and, in my view, Columbus Day clearly meets this standard.

In this day of world-wide instant communication and the possession of broad ranging knowledge by great numbers of people, it is easy to lose perspective on the tremendous obstacles which Columbus overcame to discover our great country.

It is reported that he originally had the idea of a western voyage when he was about 23 years old. For eight years he nurtured this idea until he developed a plan, arguing that the world was round and that he could reach India by sailing west.

When he presented his revolutionary and visionary plan to King John II of Portugal, it was turned down. Later, upon learning that the King wanted to steal his idea, Columbus fled to Spain. There he tried for four years, without success, to get backing for his proposal. After returning to Portugal for two years and failing to get assistance through Britain and France, he returned to Spain. Finally, in 1492—after ten years of failure—Queen Isabella agreed to finance his trip.

On August 3, Columbus led 88 men and three small ships onto uncharted seas to face the unknown. During the voyage, which lasted more than two months, the crew grew weary and became increasingly worried. Many, fearful of the unknown, wanted to turn back, and threatened mutiny. But Columbus overcame their fears and urged them to continue sailing west. And, although faced by many difficulties, dangers, and disappointments, they persevered. Finally, on October 12, 1492, as every schoolchild knows, this brave crew and their inspirational leader discovered the Western Hemisphere.

These were America's first immigrants. And, like the millions who followed for years after, they set an example of unswerving determination, tireless energy, and dauntless courage. But, above all, it was the great leadership of Columbus which overcame the obstacles of ignorance and fear to prove that man can face and conquer the unknown. His vision, courage, and dedication have been an inspiration to generations for 475 years.

The character of Columbus, and his achievements, represent the noblest ideals of human endeavor which Americans have traditionally revered. His determination to overcome great odds and bitter disappointment, his unlimited personal

courage, unwavering faith in God, and inspirational leadership are qualities found in all our national heroes.

The several states have for many years recognized the unique place Columbus holds in this nation's history. The first observance honoring this heroic figure took place in New York City, in 1792, when the Society of St. Tammany sponsored a public and official ceremony to celebrate his contributions to civilization in general, and to this country in particular. Since that time, nearly three-fourths of the states have declared Columbus Day, October 12, a legal holiday.

At the national level, as you know, Mr. Chairman, proposals to make Columbus Day a national holiday have been before Congress since 1906. While these hearings clearly demonstrate that previous proposals have not met with success, it is interesting to note that the nation's capital city honors Columbus but its name. Also, it is significant, that the two doors at the main entrance to the Capitol building are engraved with a series of eight panels depicting the major triumphs and tragedies in his life. These doors, it may be recalled, were originally used at a side entrance to the building, but were later moved to their present place of honor.

In honoring Columbus, the first immigrant, we pay tribute not only to his own remarkable feats and signal contributions to science and discovery. But we also honor him as the first of a long line of Italians who later immigrated to this country and enriched it by their immortal contributions to painting, sculpture, literature, law, medicine, science, and the theatre.

I urge the Committee, Mr. Chairman, to move this legislation out to the floor where we may vote to give Columbus an honored place on our calendar by making October 12, Columbus Day, a national holiday.

STATEMENT OF HON. LESTER L. WOLFF, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of my bill, H.R. 9927, to give Columbus Day, October 12, the status of an official legal holiday.

Originally, of course, the reason for declaring a holiday was expressed in the term itself, "holy day" and serfs were freed from labor to observe the religious ceremonies. This primary purpose of observance is still the motivating force behind making any occasion a holiday. In effect we are marking with ritual, festivity, and ceremony the significance of an event deemed worthy of such remembrance.

This then should be the primary consideration for Congress, but today a holiday means other things as well. It means a vacation from work, a time to spend with your family, to take a trip, extra time to do the things you want to do.

We have a day to honor our war dead, our service veterans, our first president, and national independence—all significant national achievements. However I feel that Columbus, though he was never officially a United States citizen, expresses the adventuresome, pioneering spirit that is still identified with the best of American tradition. This would be a day to remember a man who lived by his belief that the world was round and was willing to go to the so-called ends of the earth to prove it. And through him we would pay our respects to the vitality and courage it takes to cross into a new frontier.

But there are other, more mundane reasons for declaring October 12 a legal holiday, the most cogent of which is the simple fact that 38 states already celebrate Columbus Day. Three-fourths of the states is considered expressive enough of national sentiment to pass a Constitutional Amendment—it should be considered weighty evidence of public feeling to this Committee. Just the simple fact that business closes down in that much of the country already materially affects transactions in the states that stay open. Interstate meetings, phone calls, and deliveries are already affected. Certainly it would not be a major change in the conduct of the nation's business to simply include the few remaining states in the holiday policy.

But the primary consideration is the significance of the occasion we would be honoring. I feel the discoverer of the continent on which we stand is as significant as the founder of the republic in which we live. The vast majority of our states agree with me. I hope the Committee will concur.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDITH GREEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. Chairman, in support of my co-sponsorship of House Resolution 2372, a bill declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday, I would like to make the following remarks.

Many statements in support of bills introduced by distinguished colleagues in this Congress and in preceding Congresses refer to President Kennedy's remark: "We are a nation of immigrants." For the record, I would like to explore briefly the meaning of President Kennedy's words.

The North American Continent is the home of peoples from every continent. The continent has absorbed and nurtured men and women who—for reasons as diverse as their origins—saw here promises that were absent or muted in their prior experience. So when we speak of ourselves as a nation of immigrants, the pronoun *we* extends in time to encompass not just the numbers of dreamers and doers who came to this continent and nation; no, the small word *we* encompasses the dreams and deeds themselves.

Christopher Columbus was flesh and bone, and dream and deed. His dream and deed serve as mnemonic symbol of our commitment to the ideal that men are brothers. We need not, we should not, indulge in argument about the national composition of Columbus' crew. Nor does illumination occur in lengthy arguments about who came first to this hemisphere. We—and I mean the word in its historic sense—will be judged not by whether we established the authenticity of the Kensington stone or whether we proved beyond doubt that the First Mate on the *Santa Maria* was of definable national origin. A true judgment of us must rest on whether we permitted men to dream and do in a matrix of brotherhood.

I propose, therefore, that to declare a national holiday in the name of this ideal is part of our task as transmitters of the dream. Declaring the holiday is to remind ourselves of our task. It will not achieve it. But if this holiday contributes to our sense of ourselves as free men pursuing diverse purposes within the pattern of common respect for diverse purpose, then it will have served its intent.

"We are a nation of immigrants" means that we are a nation of dreamers and doers, a nation in which dreamers and doers are at home in the vision of universal brotherhood.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to appear in support of H. R. 12769 declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday.

We owe Columbus a great debt for his discovery of a new world, but the greatest debt we owe him is for the hope and inspiration he gave to others through his own success. He was the man who acted and others followed. We owe our very being as a nation to this man.

The first Columbus Day celebration was held in the City of New York in 1792, the 300th anniversary of the landing. This celebration has become an annual affair and now is world renowned. We have a great celebration planned for October 12, 1967, in New York—you are cordially invited to attend.

President Benjamin Harrison, 1892, called upon the people of the United States to join in celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery.

Today, thirty-eight states of the United States have declared Columbus Day a holiday. What could be more fitting in this 475th anniversary of this great event than the enactment of legislation declaring October 12th as a National Legal Holiday.

I urge your early favorable action on this pending legislation.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK J. BRASCO, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to appear in support of legislation making Columbus Day a national holiday.

It seems to me that this legislation is long overdue. Nearly five centuries have passed since that day in 1492 when Columbus discovered the New World and inaugurated a new era in human progress. That discovery, which in effect doubled the size of the world, is one of the major events of secular history. It stirs

the imagination by the magnitude of its daring, both of conception and execution, and by its incalculable results for mankind.

Columbus Day is very definitely a day of national interest and significance, a day that has great meaning for us all. Despite the great advances made since the days of Columbus, serious problems still confront us. There are goals that the world has not yet reached—peace, brotherhood, justice, and human dignity for all. The attainment of these goals will demand those qualities which placed Columbus among the immortals—vision, courage, skill, steadfastness, and, above all, great faith.

Columbus Day is observed as a legal holiday in more than two-thirds of the States and is celebrated in many of our neighboring American republics. Our failure to place it in the highest category of American holidays can only be construed as an act of neglect and an example of man's ingratitude. This bill represents a belated recognition of our debt to Columbus. It provides a way in which our Nation can pay tribute to its great discoverer and commemorate his achievement.

STATEMENT OF HON. DOMINICK V. DANIELS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I am very proud and happy to be here with you today. I am very grateful to the distinguished chairman, the able gentleman from New York (Mr. Celler) for scheduling these hearings.

Mr. Chairmna, justice delayed is justice denied and I think that the Federal Government has an obligation to join with the 36 states which have declared October 12 a state holiday. I think that we have waited too long to honor the great Genoese navigator. Honoring this great man would not only be a great honor for Americans of Italian and Spanish ancestry but it would also be a long overdue recognition of a man who typified so many traits which we like to think are part of the national character.

Christopher Columbus was determined, daring and self reliant. In my view, by honoring a man who possessed these qualities in full measure, we are in fact honoring the American tradition and the splendid American dream that every man can rise to the heights if he possesses those traits which we all—regardless of ancestry—honor and esteem.

Mr. Chairman, those of us who are of Italian extraction take great pride in the accomplishments of Columbus. For us, Columbus symbolizes the Italian contribution to this nation and serves to underscore the role played by those who share a common Italian background, in the United States.

Americans of Italian heritage are inevitably good citizens, proud of their ancient heritage but above all, devoted to these United States and fully conscious of the opportunity which this nation has extended to millions of Italian immigrants down through the years. Mr. Chairman, I hope that this great committee will give speedy approval to this bill so it can be enacted into law by this Congress. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HON. DANTE B. FASCELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I am happy to have this opportunity to express my support for legislation being considered this morning to designate Columbus Day as a national, legal holiday.

It seems only fitting that we set aside one day to remember the courageous man who discovered America and introduced our Continent to the Western World.

It is difficult for us today to realize fully the concept of a flat earth, and the fear mariners of Columbus' era had of falling off the edge of the world. It was a well established fact that the world was flat. And outstanding scholars and philosophers stood ready to assure anyone who doubted, that the rumor that the world was round was absolutely absurd. To venture to prove the world was round, to ignore the pressure of ridicule and explore the unknown sea, demanded comparatively the same strength demanded of our astronauts today.

It is significant, I think, that the man who discovered a land distinguished through history by its courageous individual and collective spirits, should have exhibited courage greater than any of his contemporaries. Columbus established

a pattern—that of great men accepting challenges against insurmountable odds, and denying the existence of the “impossible.” This pattern has been characteristic of great Americans since that time.

Columbus instilled in our country a sense of adventure, of striving, of determination, and I feel he should be recognized today for his inestimable contribution to our country.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN S. MONAGAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the establishment of October 12 as a national, legal holiday and I, along with many of my colleagues, have introduced in Congress legislation to this end.

The passage of time has increased, rather than diminished the symbolic significance of Columbus' voyage of discovery in 1492. Our astronauts, venturing into the unknown world of space, partake of his courageous spirit. His example is a constant source of inspiration to all Americans, especially those of Italian descent, and he symbolizes the great contribution which they have made to our society. Finally, in these troubled times, his journey reminds us that we are a nation of immigrants, all of whom came to these shores from foreign lands, and all of whom must work together in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood for the continued well being of our nation.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN M. MURPHY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 2372, which would designate Columbus Day, October 12th, as a national legal holiday.

This year will mark the 475th anniversary of the discovery of the New World. Today we cross the Atlantic in a few hours by plane, or a few days by ship, but in 1492 it was a different story. Columbus had spent 18 years plodding through Europe seeking financial support for his trip. He finally received enough to outfit three small wooden ships and 120 men, and the trip took months. In all, he spent 14 years on the high seas in leaky ships, living on salt pork, hard tack and dried peas, searching for the wealth and riches he believed he would find across the Atlantic.

Today, in comparison, we spend millions on exploring not only every part of our own planet, but other planets as well.

Columbus never found the wealth he sought, and he died without knowing the magnitude of his discovery, but we who live in the land he discovered should not forget his contribution. For Columbus did more than discover a new continent; he showed what can be accomplished by courage and perseverance in the face of extreme hardship, and his example is worthy of our emulation. We are constantly faced with new and difficult challenges in our constantly changing world; we would do well to face our new challenges with the same determination Columbus showed almost five centuries ago.

New York State, along with 43 other states and Puerto Rico, already celebrate Columbus Day; it is time, I think, for the Congress to designate Columbus Day a national legal holiday. It is truly an occasion of national significance which requires national observance. I urge this Committee to give favorable consideration to the bill to designate October 12th, Columbus Day, a national legal holiday.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES M. HANLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, first let me express my appreciation to you, not only for holding these hearings, but also for allowing me the privilege of submitting this testimony on behalf of H.R. 8443 and related bills. As you know, these measures will establish October 12, Columbus Day, as a legal national holiday.

For many years, Mr. Chairman, Columbus Day has been celebrated throughout the United States with appropriate ceremony. Unofficially, it is recognized in several States as a holiday. The unfortunate fact is, however, that the Congress of the United States has never seen fit to declare this as an officially

recognized national holiday. I submit that the time has come for us to correct this situation.

A recent survey conducted in a number of our elementary schools across the Nation showed that two dates of historical significance were most easily recognized by the participating students. The first was 1066, the year of the Battle of Hastings. The second was 1492, the year of the landing in the New World by Christopher Columbus.

Mr. Chairman, thousands of streets, cities, schools, parks, and public buildings throughout the United States have been named in honor of Christopher Columbus. His name is as much a part of the warp and woof of American society as the Revolution and George Washington; yet we have never taken the ultimate step in declaring officially a day in his honor. It would be timely now for the Congress to declare formally that October 12 is a national holiday, and that the President is directed to issue a proclamation to that effect.

The mere act of honoring a man dead over 400 years is not, in and of itself, particularly important. The symbolic gesture is, however, for it provides us, as a society, with another link to our past. We all know that history courses are mandatory in every school in the United States and for a very good reason. They enable our young people to gain a sense of perspective and a sense of identification. What could be more important to that perspective than a formal commemoration of the grand voyage which gave root to our society in 1492.

There are broader implications which intrude themselves here, however. For in a very real sense, we remember each October 12 not a man but a dream, not a trip but a venture. We commemorate a spirit and a zeal upon which this Nation was founded and for which so many of our brave young men have fought and died, and for which indeed, they are fighting and dying today. I submit also, Mr. Chairman, that a formal remembrance of the deeds of Christopher Columbus brings into sharp focus the many rich contributions made to this Nation by Americans of Italian heritage: their names and their deeds are legion, and I feel this formal observation will serve a good purpose in underscoring both.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope the committee will take prompt action on this matter and will report the measure to the floor as quickly as possible. Thank you again for allowing me this courtesy.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDNA F. KELLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege to submit to this committee the following statement on my bill, H.R. 12957, declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday.

The introduction of a number of similar bills and resolutions in the 88th, 89th and 90th Congress is indicative of the continued interest and support in declaring October 12 a national legal holiday. In the 88th Congress, 31 bills and resolutions were proposed; in the 89th Congress, 43; and in this Congress, the 90th, over 37 such measures have been introduced.

Recent scholarly studies of North America's history now tell us that Columbus might not have been the first explorer to reach these shores. However, his voyage to the New World is deserving of commemoration by our nation. To everyone, regardless of descent, Christopher Columbus was the real discoverer of America.

In the imagination of children, Columbus' historic voyage brings to mind the thrill and the mystery of new adventures. To young people, Columbus' journey parallels their own desire for new experiences.

As a young man, Columbus studied maps, charts, and books of travel. In his youth, he travelled from Genoa to England. His convictions, often scorned by his contemporaries, were that the earth was spherical as well as circumnavigable. Columbus worked for eight years to convince Ferdinand and Isabella, the king and the queen of Spain, of the necessity for them to finance his voyage, to find a westward passage to Asia, a shorter route than was known at that time.

On October 12, 1492, Columbus landed in the New World, with his three small ships and his company of 120 men. Thus, he opened the door to the Western World.

In the Western Hemisphere, 13 Latin American countries celebrate Columbus Day. In Canada, the discovery of the New World is celebrated by practically every province. In our own country, 37 of our 50 states, plus Puerto Rico, join in the observance of this day.

In order to pay tribute to the courage and the determination of Christopher Columbus, discoverer of the New World, to join our Western Hemisphere neighbors, and to unify the individual holidays of 37 of our states, I respectfully urge this committee to give H.R. 12957 favorable consideration.

STATEMENT OF HON. GLENN CUNNINGHAM, REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal of discussion in the past few years over who really discovered America. Nearly every explorer prior to 1500 has been credited with the accomplishment, and any mention of the subject seems to bring the partisans of each into a spirited defense of their candidate.

No one, however, questions seriously that it was Christopher Columbus who brought back the news that stirred Europe to explore further and eventually colonize. It seems to me that the discussion over whose was the first European foot to touch the New World, is historically fascinating, but irrelevant to our purpose.

The important fact is that Columbus returned to Europe and made public knowledge of his discovery. There was indeed land out there in the vast Atlantic, and a ship could sail to it from Europe and return. The concept was staggering, and the news fired the imagination of 16th Century Europe. The ever increasing stream, first of explorers, and then of settlers, began.

However many may have sighted or touched our shores before, it is Columbus who deserves our homage and our remembrance. For when the Santa Maria returned to Spain, the whole chain of actions which led to colonization, settlement and civilization of the Americas began.

We commemorate with holidays the independence of our nation, the ends of our wars, the men who fought them, our first president, the first harvest of the pilgrim settlers, the workers who built the greatest industrial nation on earth.

Certainly it is fitting for us to dedicate a day to the man who told all the world about the land we live in and inspired our forebears to come here to explore, settle, free, protect, and build the United States.

H.R. 2372, AND SIMILAR BILLS, TO DECLARE COLUMBUS DAY, OCTOBER 12, TO BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE No 4 OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon Byron G. Rogers (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Rogers, Rodino, Whitener, McClory, and Wiggins.

Staff members present: Jerome M. Zeifman, counsel, and Franklin G. Polk, associate counsel.

Mr. ROGERS. The subcommittee will come to order. We have with us as an observer from the full committee, the Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr., from New Jersey.

Our first witness is Mrs. Mary Crisalli Sansone. I understand you have a statement. Please sit down and identify yourself.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. MARY CRISALLI SANSONE, PRESIDENT,
ITALIAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS**

Mrs. SANSONE. My name is Mary Crisalli Sansone. I am the president of CIAO, the Congress of Italian-American Organizations. I represent about 70 organizations and I am proud to speak for them today. Columbus can be linked in spirit and deed to our own courageous astronauts of today.

However, if we reflect for a moment, we can realize that the magnitude of this intrepid navigator far outweighs what we in our generation may accomplish in outer space.

He did not have the vast army of technicians, mathematicians and physicists and electronic engineers to assure his trajectory into unexplored worlds. He was his own power of strength, dependent solely upon the resources of his own mind and had abiding faith in God, and man's ability to fathom the mysteries of the universe.

His crew was composed mainly of criminals, his instruments crude, his ships frightfully small and too fragile to brave the uncharted and at times monstrous seas. His crew, often verging on mutiny, was held in check by the shining example of his sacrifice, and his unflinching strength in the face of many hardships and adversities.

His journals and writings told of the marvels of the lands that he had discovered, of their natural wealth, and of the peaceful simplicity

of the natives. The bounty of the new world could, in his view, enrich materially the rest of the world.

To this new world he brought Christianity and civilization for the glory of man and God. How prophetic were his words, how far reaching his vision, for in retrospect America has served as the refuge of the poor, the oppressed, the teeming millions who have sought a better life spiritually and materially.

Let our generation go down in history in declaring October 12 a national holiday so that we may not only commemorate this giant of a man, but reaffirm to the world that America is his proud beacon, serving all mankind though the example of Columbus.

The blessings of America were opened to us by Columbus and in his name and honor we are proud to share these blessings with our neighbors the world over.

May I take this opportunity to thank the chairman and the committee for giving me the time to bring to their attention the message so dear to the hearts of every Italian-American.

I thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you for appearing. It is always refreshing to have a good-looking lady appear before us, especially urging the adoption of October 12 as a national holiday.

Our next witness is the Honorable Samuel S. Stratton, who is the author of H.R. 1300.

STATEMENT OF HON. SAMUEL S. STRATTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. STRATTON. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to appear here this morning to join with those members of the House and Senate and individual private citizens who have been sponsoring and urging legislation to enact Columbus Day as a national holiday.

I have been one of those who over the years has joined in introducing this legislation and I believe it represents a very desirable decision and action on the part of this Congress and I want to urge this subcommittee and this committee to make October 12, Columbus Day, a national holiday.

I think the push and drive for this legislation is perhaps greater today than it was at any time in the past and I am hopeful perhaps this may be the year when we can achieve this landmark so many of us have been working so hard to achieve.

I don't think it is necessary for me to reiterate some of the arguments that have already been made yesterday and again this morning so eloquently in behalf of this legislation. Certainly it is proper, it seems to me, that we should honor the discoverer of America and so far as I am concerned and the people of the 35th District and the people of New York State are concerned, Columbus is the discoverer of America. We are all certain that Leif Erickson did not get here until after Columbus had arrived.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Stratton. We are delighted to get your thinking in the matter. We know you are highly interested in not only making this a national holiday but also in changing some other holidays, too.

MR. STRATTON. I know this is a point made recently by some who are opposed to this legislation, but as one who has received a degree from Harvard, let me point out that the backers of Leif Erickson come from another university called Yale.

As the previous witness already indicated, not only is it appropriate to honor the discoverer of America but also to pay tribute to people of Italian descent, people bringing to America the same kind of courage and ability that built this New World of ours after Columbus had discovered it.

Today more than ever before we need something of the same kind of courage and, incidentally, the same kind of unwillingness to give up in the face of hardships and even occasionally in the face of the inability of others to see the light at the end of the tunnel that Columbus displayed so bravely when he made that historic voyage across the open Atlantic.

If Columbus had given up as easily as some people would like us to give up today in the face of other difficulties, America would never have been discovered.

I think you have alluded to this further point, Mr. Chairman; as you are aware, I am also the author, along with the assistance of Mr. McClory from Illinois, of legislation to make all our holidays on Monday. I don't want to fog up this issue by saying that when we set aside Columbus Day as a holiday we ought to make it fall on Monday. I think that would be a fine idea, of course, but I believe we would all be happy if we can just get Columbus Day designated as a national holiday first. Then perhaps later on we can get this new holiday, as well as others, established on Mondays.

MR. ROGERS. I will yield to Mr. McClory for questions, friendly or embarrassing.

MR. McCLORY. I don't have any embarrassing questions, but I don't want to agree that I might forego the Monday holiday bill in order to establish additional holidays like Columbus Day because I do feel that establishment of our nonreligious holidays on Monday would be extremely important. Therefore, I would like consideration in this measure to consider the celebration of Columbus Day on the appropriate Monday.

I want to commend the gentleman particularly for his leadership in the area of uniform Monday holiday legislation and generally for his diligence and his duty to his constituents as well as to all citizens of the Nation, especially to those of Italian descent to whom the gentleman alluded in seeking to make this a day of national commemoration. I assume the gentleman's recommendation is for the Federal Government to designate Columbus Day as a day of celebration for Federal employees and for employees of the District of Columbia which heretofore has been the extent of Federal jurisdiction with regard to national holidays; is that correct?

MR. STRATTON. That is right. This is the same legislation, of course, that other Members have introduced and as the gentleman is well aware, we have no authority on holidays beyond the Federal employees and the District of Columbia. But, as in the case of our Federal legislation on Monday holidays, I feel once the Federal Government takes the lead on this holiday, the majority of the States will concur.

I feel sure the gentleman is aware that as a practical matter of compromise on the Monday holiday legislation, perhaps one or two of the holidays proposed in our legislation may have to be abandoned to get the final bill through.

After all, I am testifying here in behalf of the establishment of Columbus Day as a national holiday. Personally I do hope we can work it into this Monday pattern. But I think I should confine my remarks here this morning to that one issue of Columbus Day and not add the further issue of my bill H.R. 1292 (which is incidentally, only two numbers off 1492, so I think it particularly appropriate that 1492 be considered along with my bill.)

Mr. McCLORY. The gentleman made the point very effectively on the Monday holiday bill that this is one bill that would not cost the Government any money. In fact, there is a feeling that it would economically benefit the Nation.

Does the gentleman have any estimate as to how much it would cost the Government, if we enacted this legislation, in loss of time to employees, lost of service to the Government?

Mr. STRATTON. I can't see that it would involve any cost because I believe the people affected would be so enthusiastic about the action we were taking they would more than make up for any loss of productivity on that one day.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins?

Mr. WIGGINS. We discussed during the hearings of the Monday holiday bill the desirability of delaying the effective date. Do you think the effective date of this holiday should be delayed because of the same problems with regard to the other bill?

Mr. STRATTON. I would have no great objection to delaying the Monday holiday proposal but I was personally hoping we could get it on the books this year. It might cause some inconvenience to calendar manufacturers, however, and I would have no objection to delaying it. But I would like to see the Monday holiday bill added as soon as possible to the statute books.

I think if we pass this legislation we ought to shoot for observing Columbus Day the very next year that it comes around. I am not sure we can get the bill through and signed into law for 1967, but I would hope we can get it in law for 1968.

I would rather see it done as quickly as possible rather than delaying. Recognizing the realities of legislative process, however, I would have no strong objection to having the effective date delayed if we could thereby help to assure its adoption at an early date.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Stratton, for your testimony.

We have another distinguished member from New York, the Honorable Paul A. Fino. I understand you have a short statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL A. FINO, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. FINO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

May I ask whether the chairman has received a telegram from Governor Rockefeller in support of this legislation?

Mr. ROGERS. We have searched for it but have not found it at this time.

Mr. McCLORY. Will the gentleman yield? Has there been anything from Mayor Lindsay?

Mr. FINO. He might be interested in having "Fun Day" declared for "Fun City," I don't know. I spoke to the Governor's office yesterday and the secretary informed me some correspondence would be coming to this committee; however, I am authorized to say Governor Rockefeller of the State of New York is wholeheartedly in support of this legislation sponsored by our colleague, Mr. Rodino.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee, I welcome and appreciate this opportunity to testify today in support of H.R. 2372, a bill to make Columbus Day a national holiday.

Since the first celebration of Columbus Day in New York City on October 12, 1792, the American people have shown an increasing desire to make Columbus Day an occasion for national celebration.

One hundred years later in 1892 Congress adopted a joint resolution directing the President to call upon the people in America to observe the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by public patriotic demonstrations and by suitable exercises in our schools and other places of assembly.

No organization has been more in the forefront in this crusade than the Knights of Columbus. Their arguments in support of a Columbus Day were so eloquent and so effective that in 1908 the New York State Legislature passed a bill declaring October 12 as Columbus Day.

This bill was signed into law because of the tremendous popular support by all the people for such a holiday.

The popularity of a Columbus Day idea has grown every year to such an extent that there is no longer any doubt as to the need and the propriety of enacting it into Federal law.

July 4 is important to us because we celebrate Independence Day. February 22 is also important because we celebrate the birth of the founder and first President of the United States.

I think October 12 is equally important because it marks the discovery of the American continent.

By passing H.R. 2372 we would be declaring Columbus Day a legal national holiday and showing to the whole world our love, respect, and admiration for a great explorer, a great adventurer, and a great navigator who founded this new world.

Let's give October 12 the kind of recognition it deserves by making it a legal holiday.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Fino, we have received a wire from the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus which will be put in the record at this point.

(The document referred to follows:)

NEW HAVEN, CONN., October 4, 1967.

HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.:

On behalf of more than one million members of the Knights of Columbus in the United States, I strongly urge passage of H.R. 2372 as a long overdue initiative to give fitting national honor to Christopher Columbus, the heroic Discoverer of America but for whose vision and courage this great Nation might not exist today.

JOHN W. McDEVITT, *Supreme Knight.*

(The communication from Governor Rockefeller referred to follows:)

STATE OF NEW YORK,
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Albany, October 5, 1967.

Hon. PAUL A. FINO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FINO: New York State has long appreciated the tremendous inspiration, the deeds and daring of Christopher Columbus. We in the Empire State are especially thankful for the countless contributions this dauntless Italian explorer's fellow countrymen have made and continue to make to the development of our culture. Their love of liberty means much to the steady growth of our State and nation. In recognition of the contribution of Christopher Columbus, Columbus Day is a legal holiday in New York State.

I would hope that the Federal Government would accord similar appropriate national recognition to Columbus Day.

Sincerely,

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER.

Mr. McCLOREY. I want to thank the gentleman for his statement.

Mr. WIGGINS. I also thank Mr. Fino for his statement.

Mr. RODINO. Since we have been talking of Governors, I would like to mention to the committee that Governor Hughes of the State of New Jersey has been celebrating Columbus Day for many years as the Governor and chief executive of our State.

I will present his statement and ask that it appear in the record.

Mr. ROGERS. That will be done.

(The document referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD J. HUGHES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY

I am anxious to add my voice to that many that will be heard in favor of legislation to establish Columbus Day as a national holiday.

October 12th, 1492, marks the successful end of an epic journey across a treacherous sea and the beginning of a new era in the New World. It also marks the triumph of knowledge, vision and determination over ignorance, pessimism and blind fear.

This rare moment was made possible by the faith, bravery and unconquerable will of one man—Christopher Columbus—who refused to order his ships to turn back, despite mounting terror and threatened mutiny among his crew.

Such a moment in history deserves to be remembered and celebrated by an appreciative citizenry—not only because it opened the way for the birth of their nations, but also because it is an opportunity to encourage emulation of the admirable traits and characteristics of Columbus the man, without which the voyage of discovery would surely have ended in failure.

We in New Jersey have been observing October 12th as a state holiday for many years. President Kennedy and Vice President Humphrey were among those who participated in our observances in the recent past.

Columbus Day fully deserves the added honor, prestige and status of becoming a national holiday, and I am disappointed that Congress has thus far failed to act on the matter. I am surprised because I know of the efforts in this behalf made by your colleague, Peter Rodino, a ranking member of your House Judiciary Committee, my longtime friend and campaign manager, and the dean of the New Jersey congressional delegation. And I know how much time and energy he has expended in his long and dedicated campaign to win passage of a Columbus Day bill.

I am particularly impressed by the multi-purpose observance that Congressman Rodino has projected. Such a Columbus Day observance would attract the support of all segments of the population and would serve our national interests by promoting those goals, ideals and principles that are essential to our democratic traditions.

I respectfully urge your prompt approval of the pending Columbus Day bill. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Congressman Fino, for your statement.

Mr. FINO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is Mr. Marianno Lucca, president of the National Columbus Day Committee.

**STATEMENT OF MARIANO A. LUCCA, PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL COLUMBUS DAY COMMITTEE**

Mr. LUCCA. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, I want to take this opportunity of thanking each and every one of you because from time to time I believe we have been buttonholing every member of the Judiciary Committee in recommending our thoughts on Columbus Day.

The chairman of this committee from the State of Colorado, the first State in the Union that through the efforts of members of the fourth estate he was able to bring about the first legislation of the land in making the State of Colorado the first State in the Union to observe the Columbus Day holiday.

Mr. ROGERS. We certainly enjoy having it as a holiday in our State. Many of our fine citizens join in that celebration.

Mr. LUCCA. As a member of the fourth estate I was honored to be elected the national chairman of a committee that is composed of all the ethnic groups of our country, men and women of all walks of life and representations in all of the 50 States of the Union.

You have heard our distinguished Members of Congress that have come up and testified and you have many of the bills that you are considering where they have asked to establish Columbus Day as a national holiday.

We feel that in the 18 months that we have been operating and we have gone into the 50 States and talked to legislatures, talked to heads of organizations, talked to religious groups, talked to labor union leaders, manufacturers, industrialists, and they are all in full accord that our country should bring about a recognition of the man that opened the doors for this great hemisphere of ours.

We have had arguments that Leif Ericson came here first, the Indians were here before Leif Ericson, and we don't dispute the efforts of others but we know this, that from 1492 America was open to the world and other intrepid and courageous men made voyages here and the colonization of our country, North and South America was colonized and today we are enjoying the greatest land under God, the greatest land in the entire universe.

Mr. ROGERS. Do you have members throughout the Nation and find favor everywhere you go?

Mr. LUCCA. Yes, sir; and I can say if necessary we can list these, we have talked to Members of the House and I find if this bill were to go on the floor of the House this afternoon it would be passed and unanimously because of the sentiment of the Members of the House of Representatives, how they feel about this bill.

Now at this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the record cleared as to the cost of Columbus Day holiday—I believe I have already established correctly at this time—you have a communication from the Civil Service Commission, the same communication sent into the Senate committee in 1964, verbatim, the only thing that

changed is the figures—in 1964 it was \$71 million, now it is up to—

Mr. McCLORY. Is it \$94 or \$95 million? Ninety million dollars, I think.

Mr. LUCCA. Well, \$90 million. I believe even with some of the Members of the Congress there has been a misunderstanding here. Your record reads that the holiday did vary at a round \$90 million.

I was here yesterday and a good Representative, a very important member of the Appropriations Committee, John Rooney, of New York, I believe Mr. McClory asked him, if we pass the Columbus Day legislation, how would you feel if Civil Service comes to you next year and says, "We want an additional appropriation of \$90 million"?

Mr. Rooney stated that the Senate Judiciary Committee had considered it and he had testified before the committee and they went along with it. I contacted the Civil Service Commission yesterday because I wanted a clarification of this, although their statement speaks for itself, but I wanted something in the fifth- and sixth-grade language.

When I asked them, Are you going to come in and ask for an appropriation of \$90 million, their answer was, "No, we are not asking anything about an appropriation, the communication only calls attention that man-hours lost of 1 day's work of the Federal employees is \$90 million."

Now, 90 percent of the Federal employees are on civil service—are on an annual salary. There is only about 5 percent of the navy yards and so forth which are on a different salary basis. Now the point of this is that if the employees were off Columbus Day, their salary would still be in the appropriations as being paid for.

Now the point involved is this: the work that they would not do on October 12 would be done on October 13 or 14 or assuming that I am in accord with Mr. McClory's Monday holiday, because I come from the city of Buffalo, which is a neighbor of our great Dominion of Canada and they are observing there the Queen's birthday on a Monday; I am in full accord that after we pass this bill and make Columbus Day October 12 and you make all the changes of the nine holidays instead of eight, for Monday observance, that Columbus will go in that same category.

So in this respect, we are not spending one copper penny for Columbus holiday with the exception that 5 percent of employees which fall into the other category and these same employees you have to pay certain overtime 365 days a year if the occasion arises.

So, Mr. Chairman, I believe that this contention of the cost of the Columbus Day holiday has been the main argument of quite a few of the Members of Congress and quite a few of the Members of Congress have received the wrong impression from the Civil Service Commission communication.

Mr. ROGERS. I can assure the gentleman I for one did not get the wrong impression. We understand that and you have explained it adequately, so we can move on to other good reasons why the legislation should be approved.

Mr. McClory.

Mr. McCLORY. Along that line Mr. Stratton made the sound observation that everyone should appreciate Columbus Day so much they would work harder the day before or the day after.

Another note, this gentleman talked of the copper penny. We no longer have the silver dime or quarter so I am glad that we still have the copper penny.

Mr. WIGGINS. I would like the gentleman to give me the benefit of his thinking on this problem. How many days do you believe a Federal employee should be excused from his work apart from his vacation each year?

Mr. LUCCA. Knowing how Federal employees work in Washington, I have gone into some of your offices at 10 o'clock at night and Federal employees have been working there and there is no overtime for them.

I believe if you give them 10 holidays a year you are not compensating them at all.

Mr. McCLORY. Do I understand the answer then is that 10 would be an appropriate number? You see I have the feeling there are a good many more days that could be celebrated in the United States and at some point we will have to be arbitrary and say it won't be 30, it will be 29, or it won't be 10, it will be nine or it might be seven.

Mr. LUCCA. As I stated a moment ago, our Federal employees are dedicated men and women in the service, they do their work and their work is never done, they don't count hours and minutes.

As a matter of fact in your office your secretary and stenographers will stay in there until that work is done. That I find practically in every department of the Federal Government.

As far as giving your employee an extra day or two or three in 1 year, you are going along with the same basis of industry and doing something for your employees so that he in turn is being compensated for the faithful, ardent service he is rendering.

Mr. McCLORY. Let me make a comment. If you believe that it does not cost them something to have a man not working, then you have been brainwashed by the new economics, and I urge you to take another look at your figures.

I don't want to get into an argument on the subject, I just made a comment.

Mr. LUCCA. I am an employer of employees. Mr. Chairman, I have here some resolutions to present and I would like to introduce them and have the gentlemen stand for your committee.

Mr. ROGERS. All right.

Mr. LUCCA. This is from the Knights of Columbus, Mr. Vettel, State deputy.

This is from the Order of Italian Sons and Daughters of America, the national secretary, John B. DiGiorno.

Alianza Interamericana Committee, the largest Spanish organization in our country, Mrs. DeTorriella was delayed in coming.

This is from the Columbus Foundation, Mr. Joseph Albanese.

This is from the Columbus Citizens League, Mr. Joseph F. Sorge, president.

This is from the Italian-American Athletic Club, Mr. D. J. Nelli, president.

This is from the Kansas City Medical Center, Dr. D. M. Nigro.

This is from our good Spanish friends in Miami, the DeSoto Celebration group, Mr. John C. Manson, president.

This is from the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers.

This is from the Italian Executives of America.

This is from our National Columbus Day Committee and Mr. Sommer, our coordinator, is here.

The Italian-American Democratic organization of New York State.

This is from the American graduates of Italian universities. I have from the great State of Florida a copy of House bill No. 859 of the State senate, a memorial to the Congress of the United States to provide for the designator of October 12th each year as a national holiday known as "Columbus Day".

On behalf of our committee I want to thank each and every one of you and we are looking forward to the passing of this legislation.

Mr. ROGERS. These resolutions will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The documents referred to follow :)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, STATE COUNCIL, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

We, the undersigned, represent the Knights of Columbus of the District of Columbia. I, Harold E. Vettel, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus of the District of Columbia, appear before this honorable committee on behalf of Dr. John W. McDevitt, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, the State Council and over 6,000 subordinate councils with over 1,120,000 members in support of H.R. 2372 which will establish Columbus Day as a national holiday.

No other personage in our history is as worthy of such recognition as Christopher Columbus. Without his courage and steadfastness the course of history would have been different. Those who followed his example, men of all nationalities established colonies on the mainland of North America and resulted finally in the country we know and love, the United States of America.

Unless we honor the man who began it all by making Columbus Day a national holiday any honors given to those who followed would rest on an uncertain foundation.

Respectfully submitted.

HAROLD E. VETTEL,
State Deputy.
JOHN C. MOORE,
Past State Deputy.
MARTIN J. RYAN,
State Secretary.

STATEMENT OF THE ORDER ITALIAN SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA, PITTSBURGH, PA., SEPTEMBER 22, 1967, RELATING TO COLUMBUS DAY

It is the position of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America that Columbus Day should be declared at national holiday. Recognizing that it is an official holiday in at least thirty-six states, this alone should be persuasive reasoning why the United States Congress should enact a law making it nationwide in observance.

The Americans of Italian origin in this nation are disturbed that efforts to make this a national holiday are generally characterized as an attempt to impose a holiday in the United States for the satisfaction of only Americans of Italian origin. It is the position of ISDA that if it is the intention of the sponsors of this legislation to make Columbus Day as a holiday simply for Americans of Italian origin, then we will be opposed to it. The sole justification for making this a national holiday is to pay tribute to the discovery of America. October 12 is the birthdate of the Western Hemisphere. It is a date which commemorates the opening of the Western Hemisphere to the countries of Europe. Moreover, the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America does not wish to participate in any argument as to who arrived first. Whether the Norsemen were here first, whether Leif Ericson did in fact come here, whether the Irish were here first, all of this is immaterial to the essential point. It was the coming of Columbus to America and his landing here on October 12, 1492, which opened the new world to the old world.

It is rather melancholy to compare the commemorative celebrations of Columbus Day in the United States with the enthusiastic commemoration in Central and South America. Our Latin American neighbors make this indeed a truly national festival. At the present time in America, because we have no national holiday, we see that usually the commemorations are sponsored by organizations of Americans of Italian lineage or religious groups such as the Knights of Columbus.

Although our organization is one of the largest organizations of Americans of Italian lineage, it is nevertheless our opinion that the necessity for making Columbus Day a national holiday is based not on an attempt to honor any one ethnic group, but to pay tribute to the date which heralds the discovery of the new world.

Another reason remains for advocating the creation of this new national holiday. Generally speaking, it has been the trend both in labor contracts and in modern thinking that each month of the year should feature some type of national holiday. Thus we see New Year's day in January; Washington's Birthday in February; various religious holidays in March and April, including Purim, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the first day of Passover; in May we have Memorial Day; in June, Flag Day; in July, Independence day; (there is no particular holiday in August because this is generally a vacation month); Labor Day in September; Thanksgiving Day in November; and Christmas in December. The creation of a national holiday practically midway between the Labor Day holiday of September and the Thanksgiving Day holiday in the last week of November would come at a most appropriate time.

For these and other reasons the National Council of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America has adopted the following resolution:

Resolved: That the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America urge the Congress of the United States to enact October 12 as a national holiday entitled Columbus Day for the purpose of commemorating the discovery of America.

Judge RUGGERO J. ALDISERT,

National President.

JOHN B. DIGIORNO,

National Secretary.

ALIANZA INTERAMERICANA, INC.,
Coral Gables, Fla., September 27, 1967.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS: Be it resolved that Alianza Interamericana, an organization composed of Latin American consuls to the Florida area, city, county, and state government officials, and other prominent citizens of the Miami area, whose purposes are civic, charitable, educational, and cultural, go on record as requesting that the Congress of the United States declare October 12, Columbus Day, a National Holiday.

VIRGINIA DE TORRUELLA,

International founder,

President ad Vitam.

COLUMBUS FOUNDATION, INC., SYRACUSE, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 28, 1967

RESOLUTION

Resolved that the gifts, sacrifices, and contributions of Americans of Italian descent to the social, economic, cultural, business, and patriotic life of the United States requires and demands that in the interest of fairness and justice, October 12, Columbus Day, be declared a National Legal Holiday and our members unanimously memorialize the Congress of the United States take necessary and appropriate action forthwith.

JOSEPH ALBANESE, *President.*

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted at a meeting duly called of the members of the Columbus Foundation Inc. on the 27th day of September, 1967

NELLIE VENTRE, *Secretary.*

COLUMBUS CITIZENS LEAGUE, INC. (AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN UNITY OF STRENGTH),
WASHINGTON, D.C.

At a meeting held on September 23, 1967, in Washington, D.C., at the offices of the Columbus Citizens League, a Resolution was drafted and adopted by the Executive Committee of said organization on behalf of the entire membership. It reads:

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee,
U.S. House of Representatives:

Resolved, That realizing the historical and contemporary significance of honoring those who have contributed to this great Nation of ours by making America what it is: By adding to the freedoms we all enjoy as Americans: by providing strength to our Nation by contributing to its moral fibre, be it resolved that Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America and the founder of its destiny be honored by establishing an appropriate national holiday on his birthdate, October 12. Be it resolved further that this date, be set aside to do honor to Columbus by appropriate ceremonies in the Nation's Capital and in all American cities and States in our land. Be it resolved further that October 12, be set aside as a holiday for all Federal employees throughout the Nation and for all school children in the District of Columbia so that they may help in the historical commemoration of the birth of Christopher Columbus. Be it resolved that the Congress acting in concert with the President of the United States do all the foregoing so that Christopher Columbus, the voyager from another land, the discoverer of a new land, and the champion of the spirit of freedom to search for the good and true which is cherished in our great country may at last be honored for all to see.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH F. SORGE, *President.*

ITALIAN-AMERICAN ATHLETIC CLUB, SYRACUSE, N.Y.

RESOLUTION

Adopted by the Italian American Athletic Club, an Organization chartered by the State of New York—domiciled in the City of Syracuse, County of Onondaga, State of New York, at a meeting the 27th day of September, 1967;

Whereas, the Membership feels, recommends and suggests that the day set aside each year and designated Columbus Day, should fully deserve recognition as a National Holiday with all the enjoys applicable thereto; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Italian American Athletic Club recommends that Columbus Day be declared a National Holiday.

D. J. NELLI, *President,*

CARL F. BARANELLO, *Judge Advocate.*

KANSAS CITY MEDICAL CENTER,
Kansas City, Mo., September 29, 1967.

MARIANO A. LUCCA,
National Chairman, National Columbus Day Committee,
Statler Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. LUCCA: The organizations with which I am affiliated are unanimously in favor of endorsement of a Columbus Day Bill for presentation before the House Judiciary Committee.

We have written our Congressmen asking their support of the Columbus Day Bill to establish Columbus Day as a National Holiday.

We believe that the founding of the New World should be observed as a National Holiday so that all citizens might participate in community activities on October 12th.

Yours very truly,

D. M. NIGRO, M.D.,
President Rockne Club of America,
Past President, Unico National,
Unico National Athletic Director Emeritus.

DESOTO CELEBRATION, INC.,
HERNANDO DESOTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.,
Bradenton, Fla.

To the Honorable the President, and Congress of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.:

Know All Men by These Present: That the DeSoto Celebration, Inc., a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida, by its Board of Directors has unanimously adopted the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That the Honorable the President and the Congress of the United States of America is hereby respectfully petitioned to declare October 12, 1967, and each and every succeeding October 12, as Columbus Day and to declare that the same is a national holiday and that this resolution be presented through the auspices of the National Columbus Day Committee.

In Witness Whereof, the Board of Directors of the DeSoto Celebration, Inc., has caused these presents to be executed by its President and attested by its Secretary and its corporate seal to be attached this 28th day of September, A. D. 1967.

JOHN C. MANSON, *President.*

Attest:

ROBERT H. HOFFMAN, *Secretary.*

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL DELIVERY MESSENGERS,
(OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE),
Brooklyn, N.Y., September 28, 1967.

Mr. J. P. SOMMER,
Coordinator, National Columbus Day Committee.

DEAR MR. SOMMER: Many thanks for your letter on Columbus Day as a legal Holiday, I do hope that the following information will assist your Committee in this worthy course.

As you can see that I am a Regional Representative of the Union in New York State, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island but at the time of the Convention I was and still am the President of Local # 62 Brooklyn N.Y. As a delegate from Brooklyn I presented to our convention the following Resolution.

Whereas, many sections of our country observe Lincoln's Birthday, Columbus Day Election Day and Good Friday as legal Holidays, and

Whereas, many employees of the State, Municipal and private industry enjoy these days as Holidays and therefore,

Be it resolved: that the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers in Convention at Houston Texas on August 12, 1966, instruct its National Officers to seek legislation that will provide for the observance of Lincoln Birthday Columbus Day Election Day and Good Friday as National Holidays.

This Resolution was submitted as Resolution # 7 from the Brooklyn Delegation, and then changed to Resolution # 50 in our National Convention at Houston Texas, and was recommended by the Resolution Committee over other Resolutions of the same nature, and this was adopted by the entire membership at the Convention.

I do hope that Mr. Mariano A. Lucca Chairman of the National Columbus Day Committee will be successful in this worthy Day.

I hope I was of some help, I am,

Fraternally,

GAETANO V. MANGANO,
New York Regional Representative.

ITALIAN EXECUTIVES OF AMERICA, INC.,
Brooklyn, N.Y., September 18, 1967.

Hon. BYRON G. ROGERS,
Chairman, House Judiciary Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROGERS: The following resolution has been passed unanimously by the Board of Governors of the Italian Executives of America, Inc., as follows:

Whereas, Christopher Columbus discovered the New World on October 12th, 1492, and,

Whereas, this monumental discovery opened the wave of colossal migration to the Western Hemisphere of the rich diversity of peoples from everywhere in the world which has made America great, and,

Whereas; three-fourths of our States yearly set aside legally October 12th for celebration, a day dedicated to serve as a great inspiration in our times of new discoveries and pioneering spirit, and,

Therefore, we, the Italian Executives of America, Inc., do hereby proclaim and beseech the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America to pass a bill to make October 12th a national legal holiday to be termed as Columbus Day.

Your Committee's favorable consideration is sincerely anticipated.

Sincerely,

SYLVESTER J. GARAMELLA,
National President.

NATIONAL COLUMBUS DAY COMMITTEE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE
NATIONAL COLUMBUS DAY COMMITTEE

Whereas, in 1907, Colorado was the first State of the Union to declare October 12, a legal holiday known as Columbus Day;

Whereas, since that year, 38 other States have followed the example of Colorado by observing October 12th annually as a State legal holiday called Columbus Day;

Whereas, on the morning of Friday, October 12th, 1492, Christopher Columbus and his courageous expedition reached land in the New World on the island of Guanahani, now called San Salvador;

Whereas, it would be especially appropriate that on the anniversary of the 60th year of the enactment of the first Columbus Day Bill;

Whereas, Christopher Columbus discovered a land which is the cradle of liberty for all freedom-loving peoples throughout the world;

Be it resolved that the National Columbus Day Committee, composed of distinguished citizens from every State of the Union and every race, creed, color and religion—all Americans—do hereby petition the Congress of the United States of America give the recognition which Christopher Columbus rightly deserves by enacting a law establishing October 12th annually as a Federal legal holiday.

Signed Unto This 15th Day of September 1967.

MARIANO A. LUCCA,
National Chairman.

Attested:

J. P. SOMMER,
National Coordinator.

FEDERATION OF THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, INC.,
Brooklyn, N.Y., September 17, 1967.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee,
House of Representatives Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CELLER: The Federation of the Italian-American Democratic Organizations of the State of New York, Inc. was founded in 1932 to stand as bulwarks on the side of liberty and freedom; to preserve the proud heritage as Americans of Italian descent.

During these years, we have been vocal in underscoring the fabulous Italian heritage of America, which, of course, begins with the great man who discovered the Western Hemisphere—CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

It has come to our attention that the House Judiciary Sub-Committee is to consider the numerous bills introduced to make October 12th a National Legal Holiday with patriotic and inspirational observances.

For 35 years, every year, the Federation of Italian-American Democratic Organizations of the State of New York, Inc., reflecting the deep-rooted hopes and aspirations of the more than 22 million first, second and third generations of Americans of Italian extraction, has urged the Members of the United States

Congress to pass a Columbus Day Bill and implement the wishes of a vast majority of our States.

Our organization has conducted private polls of the Members of the 90th Congress and it is our considered judgment that an overwhelming majority of the members of this august body of lawmakers and the members of the Senate of the United States will vote for the passage of a Columbus Day Bill.

We, therefore, officers, Board of Governors Members, and our full membership of the Federation of the Italian-American Democratic Organizations of the State of New York, Inc. do urge the Sub-Committee and the whole Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives to report out of Committee favorably a bill to celebrate October 12th as Columbus Day—and make it a national legal holiday so that the majority will of the Congress of the United States be proved and ascertained.

Your cooperation and that of your House Judiciary Committee is most important.

With best wishes, I remain

Respectfully,

VINCENT J. TRAPANI,
State President.

AMERICAN GRADUATES OF ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES, INC.,
LAUREATI AMERICANI DELLE UNIVERSITA ITALIANE,
Brooklyn, N.Y., September 15, 1967.

To The Members of the Congress, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: The American Graduates of Italian Universities, Inc., is composed of American citizens who attended Universities and Colleges in Italy. Most of our members are not descendants of Italian families but are inheritors from other European countries whose parents or forefathers emigrated to the land of America to flee from oppression and persecution.

Christopher Columbus to us all was the progenitor, the pioneer who paved the way for our America. The mention of his very name—*Columbus*—is truly a high inspiration for us all.

We feel that it is fitting and proper that Columbus Day, October 12th should be observed by the Federal, State and local governments every year to renew our dedication to the spirit of liberty, freedom and equality in America. Columbus Day should stand as a symbol to all immigrants and sons and daughters of all immigrants—Americans all. It is incumbent upon the Congress of the United States of America to set the style and lead the observance of Columbus Day. Columbus Day should be celebrated uniformly and not be fragmented by State lines.

The American Graduates of Italian Universities, Inc., endorse the efforts of all organizations and groups who seek to foster and encourage a law to make the twelfth of October a legal holiday nationally as a true and unforgettable memorial to the indomitable explorer Christopher Columbus, an Italian who sailed under the patronage of the Spanish and French to discover America for the future of every nationality from all lands.

Respectfully submitted,

SHOLOM SHAKIN, M.D., *President.*

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Lucca.

Mr. LUCCA. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is Mr. Michael A. Rivisto, supreme national deputy of the Order Sons of Italy in America.

Mr. ROGERS. Before you proceed I would like to ask would the other gentleman like to present a statement?

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. RIVISTO, SUPREME NATIONAL
DEPUTY, ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA**

Mr. RIVISTO. No sir. Mr. John Nave is a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America and is just here to assist me in distributing my prepared statements to the members of the committee and to the press present.

Mr. ROGERS. All right, you may proceed.

Mr. RIVISTO. Mr. Chairman, and members of this distinguished committee, my name is Michael A. Rivisto. I have the honor and the privilege to appear before you as the supreme national deputy of the Order Sons of Italy in America and representing the presiding officer of the order, supreme venerable, Peter J. Bertoglio and the members of this great fraternity which extends throughout the United States, in Canada and Bermuda.

The fraternity of the Sons of Italy is the largest organization representing people of the United States, Canada and Bermuda of Italian heritage.

To speak of the glories of Christopher Columbus can be regarded as superfluous as paying tributes to the sun, the moon, the stars, the oceans and all the other natural phenomena of the world.

And yet there are times when we find ourselves defending the regularity of the mighty forces of the universe.

And so it is that today the Order Sons of Italy in America asks this distinguished committee to accomplish, what I believe is obvious; that is, to report favorably to Congress the enactment of the House bill which would make Columbus Day a national holiday.

It should be most natural, logical, and rational that Columbus Day be declared a national holiday. The very National Government functions in a land gloriously, poetically, and factually entitled, "the District of Columbia."

This region undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in the world, architecturally, artistically, and scenically was named the District of Columbia by whom?

By the very founders of our Government. The Constitution of the United States in article I, section 8, subsection 17, provided that the Government of the United States was to be housed in a territory not exceeding 10 miles square, and the First Congress named that territory after Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of this land.

Recently there have been many theories advanced, that is many abstract ideas discussed, many speculations indulged in, that Columbus was not the first white man to set foot on this continent.

Without seeking to disparage the efforts of some scholars delving into the subject of the discovery of America, I cannot accept that those in the 20th century would know more about the realities of the revelation of this hemisphere than those who lived closer in time to the geographical and historical facts.

The great statesmen of the days of George Washington named the seat of our Government the District of Columbia and so it is the District of Columbia. And I submit to you, Mr. Chairman and members of this distinguished committee, that it is anomalous that in this very area named Columbia by the godfathers of our Nation, Columbus Day should not be a Federal holiday when in 37 individual States of the Union, Columbus Day is an official holiday.

It is the official position of the Order Sons of Italy in America that Christopher Columbus discovered America, that it was his wisdom, his courage, his Heaven-inspired determination that finally tore away the misty curtains which has concealed here this part of the world from the rest of the world.

Even if it were to be speculated that some seafarer, buffeted by storm and carried by running tides, was blown ashore on these lands prior

to 1492, it must be admitted that nothing ever came from that chance swamping in the surf on America's rocky shores.

No footprints of history ever marked that hypothetical landing, not a physical marking establishes that supposed, bewildering scrambling in the sands of unrecorded antiquity.

In any case, such a landing, if there were one, was accidental, ephemeral, and nothing ever came of it.

Columbus' landing, on the other hand, was like the building of a bridge. From October 12, 1492, the traffic from the Old World to the New has been continuous, ever augmenting and unceasing.

On October 12, 1492, American civilization began. From October 12, 1492, not a day passed that the human race did not progress, as it had never progressed before—economically, scientifically, sociologically, and politically.

Even if it were argued, although I submit it is a foolish and futile argument, that if Columbus had not discovered America somebody else would have discovered it later, it must be admitted that mankind gained in the race for supreme enlightenment all the time that would have elapsed between Columbus' landing and some future, hypothetical landing.

We know that, from the day of creation to October 12, 1492, this land we call the United States of America, was but a blank page in the archives of human attainment.

We know that ever since October 12, 1492, no book records more exciting, dramatic, and romantic exploits, no book contains more pages of scientific, cultural, commercial, and educational progress than the book of America October 12, 1492; then marks the beginning of a new era, it records the initiation of a new epoch in the development of man and the progress of man.

October 12, 1492, indeed, marked the birth of America. October 12 is then the natal day of America. As such it should be celebrated as the birthday of America.

No home rings with more merriment, no home vibrates with more joy than it does when it celebrates the birthday of a member of the family. Let us then, all of us, who are members of this vast American family, celebrate the birthday of America on October 12.

On that day, let there be music, poetry, singing, and dancing, let there be surcease from work, let us put aside the burdens of the office, factory, and field for a day. Let there be abandonment to recreation and inspiration.

Let there be a reminder, in religious services, sermons, speeches, concerts, and processions of what we owe to the Heavenly Father who guided that brave mariner of Genoa across the uncharted seas to discover the riches of a land to be enjoyed by everybody, not only those born to wealth and affluence; to discover a land that would offer equal opportunity to the poor, that would give asylum to the persecuted, that would guarantee religious freedom, that would assure equality of opportunity to all.

Let Columbus Day be a reminder to all of us what can be done, what can be accomplished, if one is guided by the virtues of determination, resourcefulness, courage, and belief in a divine mission which urged Columbus forward to build that first highway across the dark expanses of the Atlantic.

Who can speak against making Columbus a national day, and what arguments can they muster? No one can honestly say that the day does not mark an event of sufficient historical magnitude. No one can say that Americans are not entitled to a day of recognition for this glorious American historic heritage, and to pay homage to an immortal man whose divine guided feat began the first chapter of the history of America.

October 12, 1492, is that point in the history of man where he found a new world.

Following the immortal day of October 12, 1492, millions of people of all nations, of all races, of different religions, and different ideologies came to rest on the shores that Christopher Columbus found to begin the saga of American history.

We cannot deny or ignore the facts of history that because for Christopher Columbus we are here today.

It may be said that America does not need another holiday. I cannot go along with that line of thinking; the life of today is intense, exhausting, high pressured, physically and mentally fatiguing.

Doctors, sociologists, research analysts all testify to the need for the American people to slow down, to take things a little easier. Another holiday would be therapeutic; that is, of course, a meaningful holiday.

And Columbus Day is that type of holiday. It embraces religion and history. Columbus Day qualifies as a day of majesty, dignity, and spiritual exaltation.

Columbus Day joins well into the calendar. With Labor Day forgotten, with warm weather on the wane, with the thought of wintry days ahead, Columbus Day fits excellently into the chronology of the year, being a wonderful crispy October day for recreation and rest between the first Monday of September and Veterans Day in November.

But above all America is a land of fairness and of justice. We owe to Christopher Columbus the honor which was denied him in his life. The glory which became his after that first voyage was a short one. The enemies of ignorance, cowardice, and envy assailed him and they prevailed, even to the extent that they tied with heavy chains those legs which had carried him before kings and queens, financiers and scientists, as he sought the ships with which to find a new world; those same enemies placed manacles on those brave hands which had held the tiller which guided the Santa Maria to these lands.

After Columbus conferred riches beyond the dreams of avarice on those who were unworthy of his loyalty, after he opened to mankind the vastest vista for advancement since the Lord separated the land from the waters, he was allowed to languish in illness and poverty. He died at the comparatively young age of 53.

But his deeds are immortal. Let us remember them on October 12 of each year. We owe this to Christopher Columbus, we owe this to the millions of immigrants of all countries who, with their brawn, determination, and fidelity have made a mighty contribution and continue to make their contribution to this, the greatest land in the world, the United States of America.

The Order Sons of Italy in America recommends to you, Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee that you urge upon Congress this honor long overdue to Christopher Columbus, immortal dis-

coverer of America, the land of the free, and the empire of fairness and justice.

Thank you, gentlemen.

I would like to add into the record that I have the honor of having with me and assisting me, Mr. John Nave, the State chairman on religious legislation and member of the lodge in the State of New York.

Mr. ROGERS. We are happy to have your testimony. Any questions?

Mr. McClory.

Mr. McCLORY. No questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Wiggins.

Mr. WIGGINS. I have no questions. You did make a very fine statement.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Rivisto.

Mr. RIVISTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. The next witness is Mr. Kenneth Meiklejohn.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH A. MEIKLEJOHN, LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. For the record, Mr. Chairman, my name is Kenneth A. Meiklejohn. I am legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. I appear here on behalf of that organization.

Mr. Chairman, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations appreciates this opportunity which you are offering us and other individuals and organizations to express our views on H.R. 2372, introduced by Representative Peter Rodino of New Jersey, which would declare Columbus Day, October 12, to be a legal holiday of the same character as New Year's, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

This bill is of great interest to many millions of citizens of Italian descent, including many, many members of labor unions, whose forefathers were and who themselves are among those who have built this country and helped to make it a land of liberty and opportunity for all.

The date on which Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, October 12, 1492, marked an event that influenced the destiny of all humanity and the personal lives of all of us as immigrants and the children of immigrants. It should receive the Nation's recognition as a holiday which it has long deserved.

Since 1963 the AFL-CIO has been on record in support of legislation to declare Columbus Day, October 12, a legal holiday of the same character as other national holidays. On August 16, 1963, the executive council of the AFL-CIO adopted a statement declaring:

The AFL-CIO fully believes Columbus Day should be a Federal legal holiday. Such a tribute to the discoverer of America is long overdue.

Similar action was taken by the executive council in February 1966. In reference to a similar convention resolution the council at that time declared that the "AFL-CIO fully believes Columbus Day should be a Federal legal holiday."

Thus the AFL-CIO has affirmed and reaffirmed its position that Columbus Day, a day of importance to all Americans, and especially to all Italo-Americans should be declared by Congress to be a national legal holiday.

We would point out, Mr. Chairman that Columbus Day is observed and celebrated as a holiday in 37 States of the Union and in seven other States under a different name; that all Presidents of the United States since President Benjamin Harrison in 1892 have unflinchingly reaffirmed the importance of the holiday by issuing appropriate proclamations; that Columbus Day is recognized and observed as a legal holiday in collective-bargaining agreements in the dress industry in New York, and undoubtedly in many other collective bargaining agreements throughout the country; that the executive council and the AFL-CIO in its last two constitutional conventions have officially joined the drive to make Columbus Day a national holiday in our country, and that the Senate of the United States in the 88th Congress approved legislation to add October 12, Columbus Day, to the calendar of our national holidays.

Unfortunately, the House did not follow suit, or we would not all be here.

We hope, Mr. Chairman, and we urge that this subcommittee and the Congress will make Columbus Day, as it should be, a truly national holiday for all Americans.

We appreciate very much, Mr. Chairman, this opportunity to express to you the views of the AFL-CIO on this legislation which is of great interest to so many Americans.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Any questions?

Mr. McCLORY. No questions.

Mr. WIGGINS. I have some questions I would like to ask concerning the existing contracts with your affiliated unions. Are holidays bargained for with reference to whether or not they are a national holiday on an individual basis?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. They may be.

Mr. WIGGINS. How would making Columbus Day a national holiday affect your existing contracts?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. Presumably this might in some cases entitle employees who work on those days to premium compensation.

Mr. WIGGINS. Would it follow that the employees would be entitled to a day off on that day?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. This would depend, of course, upon the terms of the agreement between the union and the employer. It would be a bargainable matter as to whether overtime were given.

Mr. WIGGINS. Without further bargaining would employees be entitled to additional compensation on that day?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. No, they would not.

Mr. WIGGINS. The contract does not apply for national holidays without specifying them?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. There are probably some contracts that would refer to national holidays as such but in most cases they would refer to individual dates.

Mr. WIGGINS. Are you aware that any national holidays are excluded on present contracts?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. I can't answer that question categorically, Congressman. I would think this would vary from contract to contract.

Mr. WIGGINS. Do you have any information on whether the existing holidays are typically celebrated by days off or typically recognized in contracts with overtime?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. I don't believe this would follow any typical pattern; most would provide time off and, if the worker were required to work, would provide additional compensation.

Mr. WIGGINS. Has your organization made a study of this?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. No; I am not sure.

Mr. WIGGINS. I don't ask that you make an exhaustive study, but if you have one I would ask that you submit that to the committee.

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. We will search and see if we have one.

Mr. ROGERS. If you would, would you present it to the committee?

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. Yes, sir.

(The study referred to follows:)

PAID HOLIDAY PROVISIONS IN MAJOR UNION CONTRACTS, 1966-67¹

Holiday provisions in major collective bargaining agreements in effect during 1966-67 reveal an increase in the number of paid holidays and in the wage rates of workers required to work on designated holidays. The results of the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics survey show that 31 percent of the agreements having holiday provisions granted at least 8 days of holiday time (2 half holidays being counted as 1 full holiday), as against 25 percent in 1961. During the same period, the proportion granting 9 days or more climbed from 11 percent to 30. The largest number of contracts—38 percent—now call for double time and one-half for work on holidays, including holiday pay, and 28 percent stipulate triple time. Comparable figures in 1958 were 28 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

Of the 1,970 contracts studied, 1,697 provided for paid holidays. Of the 273 contracts without such provisions, 227 were in the construction industry.

The "standard" 6 holidays, appearing in at least 95 percent of the agreements, are ranked as follows: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, New Year's Day, and Memorial Day. Good Friday has edged ahead of Washington's Birthday as the seventh most prevalent holiday. Half holidays before Christmas and New Year's Days have frequently given way to full holidays. Also to be noted is the growth of "floating" holidays to be designated by the employer and union or by the employee, thereby permitting longer weekends during the year.

Unpaid holidays were found in nearly 17 percent of the agreements studied. If agreements in the construction industry are excluded, the proportion drops to about 6 percent.

¹ This summary is based on an analysis of 1,970 major agreements, each covering 1,000 workers or more, representing virtually all agreements of this size in the United States, exclusive of railroad, airline, and government agreements. More than three-fifths of the agreements were in effect during the period 1966-67; the rest are scheduled to expire in 1968 or later.

Additional information on holiday provisions, including eligibility requirements, pay for holidays falling on weekends, and prevalence of unpaid holidays, will be presented in a forthcoming bulletin in the Bureau's 1425 Series.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

COLUMBUS DAY

Industry	8 full days plus 1 or more half days		9 full days		9 full days plus 1 or more half days		10 full days		More than 10 days		Other ²	
	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers
All industries.....	51	185.7	319	1,678.6	15	22.0	64	180.2	75	248.7	4	13.9
Manufacturing.....	45	160.1	258	1,439.2	9	15.2	40	93.5	21	43.1	3	12.5
Ordnance and accessories.....			13	41.3								
Food and kindred products.....			8	28.0								
Tobacco manufactures.....	3	3.7										
Textile mill products.....			3	12.7								
Apparel and other finished products.....	1	1.0	2	3.7								
Lumber and wood products, except furniture.....			3	3.5								
Furniture and fixtures.....			7	10.3								
Paper and allied products.....			3	4.2								
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....	1	1.1	3	4.2								
Chemicals and allied products.....	5	7.2	20	40.4								
Petroleum refining and related industries.....			17	99.5								
Rubber and miscellaneous plastics products.....			4	7.8								
Leather and leather products.....			7	14.5								
Stone, clay, and glass products.....			8	10.8								
Primary metal industries.....	2	5.4										
Fabricated metal products.....	3	5.1	18	39.5	1	1.1	3	3.3	1	1.1		
Machinery, except electrical.....	13	20.5	49	184.1	3	4.2	1	1.5	2	2.3		
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies.....	6	11.9	21	51.1	1	1.6	1	1.5	1	1.5		
Transportation equipment.....	8	100.4	62	858.0	2	2.7	2	17.4				
Instruments and related products.....	3	3.9	9	14.9	2	5.6	2	1.3	1	1.0		
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries.....			4	15.5			2	2.0				
Nonmanufacturing.....	6	25.6	61	239.4	6	6.9	24	86.7	54	205.5	1	1.4
Mining, crude petroleum, and natural gas production.....			1	1.8								
Transportation.....			16	91.8			4	12.1	12	68.8		
Communications.....			7	42.5			3	14.2	9	58.5		
Utilities: Electric and gas.....	2	8.4	11	16.5	5	5.9	7	20.9	16	49.8	1	1.4
Wholesale trade.....			5	6.3	1	1.0			4	8.5		
Retail trade.....	3	16.2	10	17.8			4	21.2	4	4.8		
Hotels and restaurants.....			9	57.2			3	13.2	5	8.5		
Services.....			2	5.5			2	3.7	4	6.8		
Construction.....							1	1.5				
Miscellaneous nonmanufacturing industries.....	1	1.0										

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

¹ Excludes railroad and airline industries.
² The number of holidays is determined by local supplements in 2 agreements, by State proclamation in 1, and by location and operation in the other.

TABLE 2.—SPECIFIC HOLIDAYS GRANTED IN 10 MAJOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS OR MORE, 1966-67¹

[Workers in thousands]

Holiday	Full holiday		Half holiday	
	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers
Thanksgiving Day.....	1,662	6,671.8	-----	-----
Christmas Day.....	1,660	6,663.6	-----	-----
Labor Day.....	1,656	6,646.9	-----	-----
Independence Day.....	1,633	6,578.4	-----	-----
New Year's Day.....	1,616	6,383.7	1	1.9
Memorial Day.....	1,605	6,518.0	-----	-----
Good Friday.....	571	2,529.0	7	11.4
Washington's Birthday.....	554	2,168.6	-----	-----
Day before Christmas ²	433	1,826.0	134	313.5
Veterans Day.....	329	1,284.9	-----	-----
Day after Thanksgiving.....	304	956.7	-----	-----
Election Day.....	166	659.6	22	150.7
Columbus Day.....	153	635.3	-----	-----
Day before New Year's ³	147	1,013.9	105	256.0
Lincoln's Birthday.....	101	347.1	3	16.2
Employee's birthday.....	94	349.8	-----	-----
Easter (Sunday or Monday).....	82	210.8	-----	-----
Extra day, to be designated ⁴	74	290.6	-----	-----
Day before or after Independence Day ⁵	24	87.6	-----	-----
Patriot's Day.....	24	71.4	3	3.4
Extra day, employee's choice ⁶	23	41.9	-----	-----
Admission Day.....	21	138.2	-----	-----
San Jacinto Day.....	10	18.8	-----	-----

¹ Based on a study of 1,970 agreements, 1,697 of which contained paid holiday provisions² Includes a few agreements granting the day after Christmas.³ Includes a few agreements providing for the day after New Year's.⁴ Includes 15 agreements providing for 2 extra days, and 4 agreements granting 3 extra days.⁵ Includes 1 agreement providing for both the day before and after Independence Day.⁶ Includes 9 agreements allowing 2 additional days.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

TABLE 3.—RATES OF PAY FOR WORK ON PAID HOLIDAYS IN MAJOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BY INDUSTRY DIVISION, 1966-67

[Workers in thousands]

Pay rate for work on paid holidays including holiday pay	All industries		Manufacturing		Nonmanufacturing ¹	
	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers
Number with paid holiday provisions.....	1,697	6,756.7	1,109	4,315.8	588	2,440.9
No reference to pay rates for work on holidays ²	75	329.1	50	266.5	25	62.6
Time and one-half.....	13	51.5	2	7.4	11	44.2
Double time.....	320	1,437.0	112	301.5	208	1,135.6
Double time and one-quarter.....	82	584.7	76	571.5	6	13.2
Double time and one-half.....	650	1,851.6	458	1,293.6	192	558.0
Triple time.....	480	2,278.1	390	1,827.0	90	451.1
Other ³	77	224.8	21	48.4	56	176.4

¹ Excludes railroad and airline industries.² Includes 19 agreements prohibiting work on paid holidays.³ Includes provisions where pay varies by holiday, by classification, and by commodity handled. Several agreements provide for pay rates of double time and three-fourths, and double time and eight-tenths; others include a flat sum. Still other pay arrangements provide for different rates depending on whether the worker is regularly scheduled to work on holidays.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

TABLE 4.—UNPAID HOLIDAYS IN MAJOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BY INDUSTRY DIVISION, 1966-67

[Workers in thousands]

Number of unpaid holidays	All industries		Manufacturing		Nonmanufacturing ¹	
	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers	Agreements	Workers
Number of agreements studied.....	1,970	7,779.7	1,113	4,324.2	857	3,455.6
Number with unpaid holidays ²	326	1,190.6	53	119.1	273	1,071.6
1 day.....	23	79.8	21	43.3	2	36.5
2 days.....	15	56.4	11	38.8	4	17.6
3 days.....	14	34.2	9	15.5	5	18.7
4 days.....	10	60.0	5	10.3	5	49.8
5 days.....	8	20.4	2	2.9	6	17.5
6 days.....	124	417.3	5	8.4	119	408.9
7 days.....	72	285.7	-----	-----	72	285.7
8 days.....	27	133.9	-----	-----	27	133.9
Other ³	33	103.1	-----	-----	33	103.1

¹ Excludes railroad and airline industries.

² Includes 257 agreements providing for unpaid holidays, and 69 having both paid and unpaid holidays.

³ Includes 4 agreements providing for 9 unpaid holidays; 15 for 10; 11 for 11; 1 for 12; 1 for 7½; and 1 which varied by State.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is Mr. Charles Famulari, who is president of the Grand Council of Columbia Associations of Municipal, State, and Federal Employees in Civil Service, Inc.

You may proceed, sir.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES FAMULARI, PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATIONS OF MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN CIVIL SERVICE, INC.

Mr. FAMULARI. Mr. Chairman, my name is Charles Famulari. I am president of the Grand Council of Columbia Associations of Municipal, State, and Federal Employees in Civil Service, Inc. We have a membership of thousands upon thousands of Civil Service Employees, and I do reflect their thoughts when I speak here today.

On October 12, 1492, Columbus courageously translated into fact the thoughts and aspirations of those then few existing visionaries who believed that the world was round.

He overcame traditionalism, timidity, and ignorance. He clearly conceived his plan stubbornly and defended it. When he discovered America he changed the history of the world.

He became for all mankind a symbol of faith, hope, and courage and incredible accomplishments. He sought to know the secrets of this world. "A Devindir. Del Mondo Esperto."

We should honor this man whose Christian faith saw him through to victory; 38 States have made October 12 a legal holiday; this represents 76 percent of the Nation's most densely populated States.

This clearly being more than a majority required to enact any law. In fact it constitutes a mandate to declare October 12 a national holiday.

I know that while I am speaking for my group, I am also echoing the sentiments of 30 million Italian Americans in the United States who feel that this Congress can no longer withhold an honor long overdue to an Italian who practiced his Christianity and believed in the limitless capabilities of the human mind.

I want to thank the chairman and the committee for their indulgence in affording me this opportunity to express the views of the people I represent.

Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, sir, we appreciate your coming.

Any questions, Mr. McClory?

Mr. McCLORY. I do want to ask some very serious questions with regard to the impact of this measure on our civil service employees because I assume that what you have in mind in this measure is that we would amend the law affecting Federal employees and employees of the District of Columbia, which is the pattern with respect to other holidays.

This would add a holiday for all Federal employees throughout the Nation, would it not?

Mr. FAMULARI. It would, sir.

Mr. McCLORY. So that we do have to consider that with regard to those employees who would have to work on the holidays there would be premium compensation?

Mr. FAMULARI. That is right, sir.

Mr. McCLORY. Also I think we have to consider that the employees who do not work on that day are either going to lose their pay or are going to be paid for that holiday. Under practices now adopted by the Civil Service Commission, which would it be? Would they be paid for that day?

Mr. FAMULARI. Yes, sir; they would be paid for that holiday.

Mr. McCLORY. Do you have any estimate yourself as to what the premium pay—what advantage there would be to civil service employees for getting the premium pay on Columbus Day?

Mr. FAMULARI. I don't have the figures but I can say this, that in a lot of States Columbus Day is celebrated and you have the fact that Federal employees are working in some places where there is no activity that day.

Mr. McCLORY. I understand that; but they don't get premium pay, do they?

Mr. FAMULARI. No; but they are not producing either.

Mr. McCLORY. What is the rate of premium pay? Is that time and a half or double time?

Mr. FAMULARI. Various agencies have various regulations. They have what we in Government circles call FEGPA, Federal Employees Government Pay Act.

Up to a certain level they get time and a half, I don't know which level, beyond that it decreases.

Mr. McCLORY. There would be an element of additional cost to the Federal Government?

Mr. FAMULARI. There would be.

Mr. McCLORY. We have to be fair, and we want to consider this Columbus Day proposal on a fair basis as with any Government holi-

day. There would be additional cost to the Government because of premium pay?

Mr. FAMULARI. There would be.

Mr. McCLORY. You certainly don't subscribe to the view that the employees are going to work so much harder before and after the holiday that consequently there will be no loss of productivity?

That is a facetious statement, not a logical statement, isn't it?

Mr. FAMULARI. I would say Federal employees work hard whether there is a holiday or not.

Mr. McCLORY. They are already working up to capacity.

Mr. FAMULARI. Yes, sir.

Mr. McCLORY. Actually if they had the celebration suggested by Mr. Rivisto, it would take a couple of days to get over it.

Mr. FAMULARI. We may be imbued with that enthusiasm that makes us more productive.

Mr. McCLORY. I think Italians and Italo-Americans take their celebration very much in stride. Few have difficulty performing thereafter at full capacity.

You don't have any real estimate on that, that would be a guess?

Mr. FAMULARI. I do remember at the last hearings, I am vague on that but I remember the estimates were about \$80 million.

Mr. McCLORY. We do honor Columbus Day. We adopted a joint resolution in 1934, and annually the President of the United States, whoever he might be, has issued a proclamation for Columbus Day urging people to have appropriate celebrations.

We could repeal that if we make Columbus Day an annual holiday. There would be a saving there. The Federal Government would not have to issue that proclamation.

Mr. FAMULARI. I would say the President is a very busy man and we would save him time because he would not have to issue this proclamation.

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you very much.

Mr. WIGGINS. I have a question.

What is the Columbia Association of Municipal, State, and Federal Employees?

Mr. FAMULARI. An organization whose members are of Italian origin.

Mr. WIGGINS. It is nationwide?

Mr. FAMULARI. Yes.

Mr. WIGGINS. Approximately how many members do you have?

Mr. FAMULARI. It is a hard figure to guess. We could state figures and be off so we would rather say thousands upon thousands.

Mr. WIGGINS. It is at least 2,000?

Mr. FAMULARI. Just one member association of ours, the Sanitation Department of New York, has 6,500 members alone, that is one lodge.

Mr. WIGGINS. Do they pay dues to the association?

Mr. FAMULARI. They do.

Mr. WIGGINS. If Columbus Day were made a national holiday, would the Federal employees, insofar as you can speak for them, be automatically entitled to that day as a vacation without further supplemental legislation, through maybe the Civil Service Act or other acts regulating civil service employees?

Mr. FAMULARI. I believe when a holiday is enacted the Federal employees automatically come under the benefits of that holiday.

Mr. WIGGINS. That is all I have at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, sir.

Mr. FAMULARI. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you. We appreciate your coming today to appear before this committee, Mr. Famulari.

Mr. FAMULARI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been my pleasure. Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Our next witness is Mr. Luigi Antonini, president of the Italian-American Labor Council of New York City. Please come forward, sir.

STATEMENT OF LUIGI ANTONINI, PRESIDENT, THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL, NEW YORK, N.Y., ACCOMPANIED BY E. HOWARD MOLISANI, SECRETARY

Mr. ANTONINI. Honorable chairman and members of the subcommittee, I respectfully ask that our Secretary submit our statement and I will follow with a short comment.

Mr. ROGERS. We will accept your statement and then you make whatever comments you wish.

Mr. MOLISANI. My name is Howard Molisani and I am secretary of the council.

First a few words of presentation about the character and purpose of our organization which is represented here by a delegation and I would like to present those members here.

Mr. Luigi Antonini, president; E. Howard Molisani, secretary; Mr. Fileno De Novellis, Mr. Vincent La Capria, Mr. Vanni B. Montana, and Mr. Salvatore Noto.

The Italian-American Labor Council was founded on December 20, 1941, a few days after Pearl Harbor, to support actively our country's war efforts. It is a delegate body. Made up of officers and representatives of legitimate labor unions who are American citizens of Italian descent.

During wartime our slogan was America's victory is Italy's freedom.

Since the end of the war, our council has dedicated itself to strengthening the bonds of friendship, cooperation, and alliance between the Republic of the United States of America and the Republic of Italy.

In all these activities our slogan has been Italo-American friendship—pillar of world peace and democracy.

In appearing today, October 5, 1967, before your subcommittee, our delegation is prompted mainly by the desire to serve, in the same spirit as in the past, the interests of the United States of America as the leading and the most powerful democracy in the world.

We have no doubt that by making October 12 Columbus Day, a Federal legal holiday, through an act of Congress, our country will win new trust and respect among all the countries of the new world discovered by Columbus.

It is to be remembered that this anniversary is being celebrated all over Latin America. We cannot be in a separate class because our rendezvous with history has been the same.

October 12, 1492, marked one of the most important events in all human history. It signaled a new destiny for the entire Western Hemisphere. It closed the door of a new age—the age of the Americas—of a new, higher civilization.

How can such an epochal event be left almost historically ignored by the Congress of the United States?

Columbus Day is already a legal holiday in 38 of the 50 States of the Union. In six other States it is celebrated under a different name, such as “Fraternal Day” or “Discovery Day” or “Landing Day.”

We therefore urge all of you honorable members of the House Subcommittee No. 4 of the Judiciary to act promptly and favorably for the speedy approval of the pending bill.

By so doing a great debt of gratitude will be paid to Columbus.

The international prestige and the moral and political influence of the United States will be greatly enhanced in the entire world.

It is time to extend officially the happy landing to Christopher Columbus.

I would like to add one other statement. In my capacity as a vice president of the State AFL-CIO in New York I have just come from a convention of 1490 delegates representing the 2 million organized workers in the State of New York.

They have adopted unanimously a resolution to our lawmakers urging that before the adjournment of the 90th Congress that October 12 be made an official holiday of the land.

MR. ANTONINI. I want to point out that since the 12th of October 1892, the President then was Harrison, he was the first President that issued a proclamation for Columbus Day, October 12.

Since that date the Presidents, both Democratic and Republican alike, have issued that proclamation approving October 12. The President of the United States has issued such a proclamation every year. That was reinforced by a joint resolution approved by both Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, on April 30, 1934, requesting the President to issue such proclamation every year. We are saying, why not put the Columbus Day, October 12, in as a legal holiday of America and save the work of the President.

Why do you give so much work to the President? It is so easy to put this in the legislation of the Congress that Columbus Day will be a legal holiday and we hope that this act of justice will come about in this Congress.

MR. ROGERS. Thank you, sir; we have been informed of your great work in the State of New York and appreciate your coming here and testifying.

Mr. McClory?

MR. McCLORY. No question.

MR. WIGGINS. If Columbus Day were recognized as a national holiday, what would be the immediate impact on your existing contracts?

MR. MOLISANI. As far as our contracts it would have no effect.

MR. WIGGINS. With respect to those contracts, is Columbus Day celebrated as a vacation day, a day off, or is it recognized by additional compensation?

MR. MOLISANI. As far as we are concerned, sir, it is a day off work, a guaranteed paid holiday in most of the agreements I am familiar with in New York.

Mr. WIGGINS. You shut down that day. You are the sole bargaining agent?

Mr. MOLISANI. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much.

Now we will hear from an Irishman, Jerome J. Keating, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Come forward, Mr. Keating.

STATEMENT OF JEROME J. KEATING, PRESIDENT, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jerome J. Keating, I am president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, an organization representing 200,000 letter carriers located in every State of the Union, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

I am here today to support H.R. 2372, the Rodino bill, which would make Columbus Day, October 12, a national holiday. At the present time Columbus Day is celebrated in 34 States and Puerto Rico and more and more States are beginning to observe it as a State holiday.

Certainly the man who found this continent on which we live should be given this honor after almost 500 years. I know that even Minnesota—a State where Olof Ohman found the controversial Kensington rune stone purporting to show the presence of Leif Ericson's men on the continent—has designated Columbus Day as a State holiday.

Certainly also, the four trips that are well documented by Columbus established him as a man due the high honor of being remembered through having a national holiday set aside for him.

Our organization has passed resolutions requesting that Columbus Day be designated as a national holiday. It has been pointed out in these resolutions that in many States throughout the Nation, business houses are closed on this day and it becomes almost impossible to deliver the mail.

I know that the Civil Service Commission has estimated that the cost would be approximately \$90 million. I assume that the statistician figured, in computing this cost, the total cost of a day's work in the Federal Government.

Observing the holiday will not cost that much, in my opinion, and where business houses are closed, as far as the mail service is concerned, it becomes impossible to deliver that mail and part of the day's work has to be carried over to the next day.

It would be a fitting tribute to this courageous adventurer who discovered this country to set aside this day, and we urge the committee to favorably report out H.R. 2372.

In answer to some of the questions that have been put to witnesses previously, the Federal Government under the Classification Act and the Postal Field Service Act and the other acts governing the working year of the employees, provides for a 260-day year.

The pay is based on a 260-day year and that includes 252 working days and 8 holidays. The men are considered to be paid for the holiday in their annual pay. If a man works on a holiday, he receives 1 day's additional pay, he does not receive time and a half.

That is considered by some as double pay because the pay for that day is already included in his paycheck.

It is a disputable question which has been argued and argued as to whether it is single time or double time.

But in dollars it represents 1 additional day that has to be paid for. It has been the custom in the Post Office and most other agencies to have no mail delivery when there is a holiday. We have eight of them, two are not observed by the general public universally, Washington's Birthday and Veterans Day.

So of course there is a little service but there are people working in the postal service 7 days a week. There are people that work there on Sunday and on holidays, they maintain the Sunday schedule of employment, that is a few clerks are employed but practically no letter carriers.

The other agencies have generally closed. It is rare that a Government agency does not close on the holidays. I think the assumption could be made that they would have an additional day's work the next day but that does not necessarily follow because they will have more work in a certain area but it won't take twice as long to do it.

I don't think the cost is as excessive as stated by the Commission and it easily can be determined what the cost would be. All that would have to be done is determine what another holiday costs.

If you would get a figure for what it cost to have a holiday on Veterans Day or Washington's Birthday, you would have a real indication of what Columbus Day as a holiday would cost the Federal Government.

It might take a little time but it could be easily and thoroughly determined. I think it would indeed be a fitting tribute to this courageous adventurer, Christopher Columbus, who went through many hardships to find this country, and we urge that you pass H.R. 2327.

I think we have to have hope for the future and respect for the past and by sometimes showing a respectful attitude for those in the past, we are preparing ourselves to better face the future.

I appreciate very much the opportunity to appear before this committee in behalf of this legislation.

Mr. McCLORY. Could you have an estimate of what percentage of Federal employees work on holidays now?

Mr. KEATING. It would be way below 10 percent, an extremely small percentage.

Mr. McCLORY. That would be in all the Federal service?

Mr. KEATING. All Federal departments.

Mr. McCLORY. If we are talking of an extra day's pay and if we took the theory that an additional holiday results in double pay for 1 day, it would affect only 10 percent of the Federal employees?

Mr. KEATING. I would say less than 10 percent.

Mr. McCLORY. Thank you.

Mr. WIGGINS. No questions.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Keating. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule and other matters being considered over at the Rules Committee.

We have the honor and privilege of welcoming one of our distinguished Members, the Honorable Frank Annunzio, from Chicago. Mr.

Annunzio, I understand you have some people you will want to introduce.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK ANNUNZIO, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Thank you for the opportunity, and I want to express my appreciation to my colleagues for sacrificing this holiday of Rosh Hashana to be here today and listen to the testimony of various witnesses testifying in behalf of the Columbus Day bill.

I know that most of our colleagues have gone back to their districts and I am delighted that you and my colleague from Illinois, Mr. McClory, and Mr. Wiggins are here and have given of your time on this important legislation.

Mr. McCLORY. I think we should point out, as the gentleman knows, the trip of Columbus to discover the New World was financed by a Jew.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Not only that, Mr. McClory, but his chief interpreter was also a Jew so I am grateful for the contribution the Jews are making. I am also grateful for the contribution Mr. Keating, an Irishman, is making because this is a national holiday for all Americans.

Mr. McCLORY. We just hope we don't offend our Jewish colleagues by having our hearing on this day.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. One of the men from Illinois who is here is an outstanding American from the Jewish faith. I have 10 constituents and colleagues of mine from the State of Illinois who are here, and their spokesman will be a member of the Illinois General Assembly. He is a veteran of World War II and is the man who has narrated for many, many years the theme of the great parade held on State Street in Chicago. Mr. Chairman it is my great pleasure to present to you the spokesman for the Committee of the Italian-Americans of Chicago, Ill., and Cook County, Hon. Victor Arrigo, who will introduce the other men.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR ARRIGO, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE, ON BEHALF OF THE ITALIAN-AMERICANS OF CHICAGO, ILL.

Mr. ARRIGO. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, may I extend my compliments to my Congressman from the State of Illinois.

I represent the 20th district in the Illinois House of Representatives and it is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to appear before such a distinguished committee.

As the Congressman stated I would like to present the men representing the Chicago area. We have first the Congressman Frank Annunzio, from the Seventh Congressional District in Illinois.

We have Dr. Mario Rubinelli, president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans. Mr. Victor Failla, director of the AFL-CIO Midwest Council, 40,000 members.

We have Mr. Frank Catrimboni, president emeritus of the North Austin Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sam Cernillo, distinguished con-

tractor from the city of Chicago, we have Robert Timoso, representing the village of Scalobrine and a magnificent home for old people in Chicago.

We have Father Sam Ascioilio, associate editor of the largest Italian publication in the country, and also Mr. Stephen Schiller, professor of the University of Illinois.

Mr. ROGERS. First of all let me express my appreciation to all of you who have come here representing the community of Chicago, Ill., to express your thoughts as it relates to making Columbus Day a Federal holiday. We appreciate your taking the time to make the appearance.

Mr. ARRIGO. Thank you.

To those of us in Illinois, Columbus Day is an extremely important holiday. This is my third appearance, if I may say so, before the congressional committees hearing this bill.

If I may I ask leave of the committee to incorporate by my testimony and inserts appearing on pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, of the hearing before Subcommittee No. 4 of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, on December 18, 1963.

I may say that I have appeared also before the Senate committee that listened to testimony on the bill which was passed by the Senate in August of 1968.

Gentlemen, with your indulgence, may I briefly mention how Chicago and Illinois celebrates Columbus Day? On October 12, 1967, Chicago will witness probably the largest parade the State of Illinois has ever seen.

The theme of our parade will be this year emphasis on the 475th anniversary of the discovery of America. On every float of this parade will be the following statement which was made by a professor of history at Harvard University, probably the world's largest biographer, a man who won the Pulitzer Prize, Samuel Eliot Morrison.

To no man in modern history does the world as we know it owe so great a debt as to Christopher Columbus.

There are no ifs, ands, or buts, nowhere in modern history as we know it does man owe so great a debt as to Christopher Columbus. Within the next few years the United States will be making plans for the quincennial celebration of the discovery of America.

I trust that my city will take the lead once again as they did in 1893 to be the situs of the quincennial exposition.

Our floats, which will probably number close to 75, will depict the role of the Italian in the history of the United States starting with the first Italian-American to come to these shores, Christopher Columbus, and at random, gentlemen, if I may, one float featuring a large American flag will extend Columbus Day greetings to the Attorney General of the United States who will be there to represent the President of the United States.

Another float will pay tribute to Giovanni Caboto, discoverer of the North American mainland in 1497. Another one, and this is significant, will pay tribute to Constantino Brumidi, the Michelangelo of the U.S. Capitol, a man who for 80 years laid in an unmarked grave and who will now be honored on October 20, 1967, when a bust of Brumidi will be honored in the corridors of the Senate.

Another will pay tribute to the Campagna region of Italy. Listed among the famous people of that area are Enrico and Alfonso Tonti.

Enrico was the first white settler in Illinois. He came with LaSalle and Marquette. Bishop Joseph Rosati was the first bishop of the St. Louis area and founded St. Louis University.

Another will pay tribute to the city of Genoa, the birthplace of Columbus. Another will pay tribute to Giovannia da Verrazano, after whom the Verrazano Narrows was named.

He came into Hudson Bay 85 years before Henry Hudson. Another will pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus who long advocated the making of October 12 a national legal holiday. We will pay tribute to Guglielmo Marconi, father of modern radio and television.

We will pay tribute to the only American to have achieved sainthood, a resident of Illinois, St. Francis Xavier Cabrini who will soon be joined by Father Samuel Mozzuchelli, who played an important role in the history of Illinois and who is now considered for eventual sainthood.

This is the only union in America that can boast that two of her 25 million Italian-descent residents have achieved sainthood.

Another will pay tribute to the first voyage of Columbus. This is the date in which the era of modern history began.

One will pay tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam. I need not remind you that many thousands of Americans of Italian descent have served in the Armed Forces.

Another will pay tribute to the regions of Italy. One out of every 80 Americans in the United States is an American of Italian descent. Another will pay tribute to Francisco Vego, who gave invaluable assistance to George Rogers Clark, making possible the acquisition of the Northwest Territory.

One will pay tribute to one of the greatest scientists of all time, Enrico Fermi. May I quote the code message Enrico Fermi adopted? In 1942, December 2, when the nuclear chain reaction test was a success, this was the code message that he sent to his fellow scientists:

The Italian navigator has landed in the New World and the natives are friendly.

It is significant that he selected Christopher Columbus as the man that would be used in the message that also inaugurated a new era in world history, the era of the atomic age.

Even the dates 1942 and 1492 are correlative. Another will pay tribute to William Paca, the only man who put a non-Anglo-Saxon name on the Declaration of Independence.

Another will pay tribute to the land of Columbus, a reference was made to Columbia by a Negro slave, she was the first poet to use the name Columbia designating this name as the name of the new world. That name was then adopted by every other poet that followed. It was an American Negro slave, a remarkable woman.

Another will pay tribute to the 25 million Americans of Italian descent on the 475th anniversary.

As Americans of Italian descent we all feel a special affinity for October 12; we have every right in the world to exalt in the accomplishment of Columbus and the 25 million others who followed him.

One float will pay tribute to Gov. Otto Kerner and the 75th general assembly for passing the bill Governor Kerner signed on August 11 amending the school code in Illinois and making October 12 a recognized legal school holiday.

Every school in the State will be closed on that day. I realize that the time is coming almost to a point where this committee has been exhausted, and I could go on indefinitely, I could name the Justinian Society of lawyers who will have a float paying tribute to Rome.

The very language we use, the very terms of our Parliament come from Rome, our law, the fountainhead of all law is in Rome.

We pay tribute to the Pandects of Justinian. The various voyages of Columbus. A reference was made to the city of Buffalo, one float will pay tribute to the region of Lombardi.

It was an Italian American who said all men are by nature created free and equal, that Thomas Jefferson later incorporated in the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. McCLORY. I am sorry to interrupt the speaker, but I am in the position of having another engagement I must keep. I want to welcome Congressman Annunzio and the representative from the State of Illinois and all the good citizens from Illinois. I would like to say while I don't have the privilege of representing those leaders who are located in the district of my colleague, Congressman Annunzio, I do have a number of relatives in that area.

I have a special interest in this subject, as Congressman Annunzio knows, because members of my own family participate actively in Italian American activities.

Mr. ARRIGO. I had the pleasure of meeting your nephew in World War II.

Mr. McCLORY. My nephew puts on an Italian language program in New York. I do want to express my appreciation and pleasure for your very eloquent statement. I have also read your statement from the prior hearing so that I am familiar with it. I appreciate the support and the light which all of you are shedding on this important subject.

Mr. ARRIGO. I wish to thank you very much.

Mr. McCLORY. If you will excuse me, I must leave.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes; I know you have another engagement.

Mr. ARRIGO. May I, in concluding, if I may paraphrase the last words of Columbus when he said as he died, "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit," and on behalf of the Italian American community of Chicago, may I say into your hands, gentlemen, of the committee, we commend our appeals for a national legal holiday.

Sir, may I thank you personally for the magnificent job and the patience you have displayed and the courtesy you have extended to everyone who has appeared before this committee?

Thank you, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, sir. We appreciate your being here, especially with your fine Congressman.

As we understand, Professor Stephen Schiller, you came down here especially to be with us.

STATEMENT OF PROF. STEPHEN SCHILLER, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Dr. SCHILLER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, to be here to talk a bit about Christopher Columbus. My accord is with the wishes of many of my friends to make the date of his discovery of this

hemisphere a national holiday. In my research, I noted Christopher Columbus was a man whose mark on history transcends all considerations of nationality.

The historian, Salvadore Di Margureta, noted, along with other reputable historians, and with due deference to my Italian and American friends, that Christopher Columbus was a Spanish Jew who just happened to be born in Genoa. Born in 1451, his vision, courage, and fortitude were to bring what later became the American dream, generations closer to fruition.

He elected not to follow his father's trade as a weaver and he joined the navy. He was noted for his bravery in his service to his country.

Off Cape Vincent the ship on which he served was sunk. Supported by a piece of a broken oar and his great intestinal fortitude he swam 6 miles in heavy seas to the coast of Portugal.

There he pursued studies as a geographer and devised and entered his accord with the theory that the world was, in fact, round. He recognized that if this were truly a fact much time could be saved in sailing to the fabled east of Marco Polo by sailing west.

This was not to be a simple undertaking. In 1484 he appealed to King John of Portugal for assistance for his proposal and was refused.

He then went to Spain and in 1482 appeared before King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to seek their assistance. They appointed a commission to explore the possibility of supporting Columbus' proposal. Having other things on their agenda, the commission took until 1490 to recommend the refusal of the Columbus' proposal. Then, for 2 years of what must have been a period of sheer frustration, during which time only his Yankee perseverance sustained him, he sought readmittance to the court of Spain. In 1492 only after threatening to go to France with his wares was he finally given support for what he sought.

In 1492 he began the first of four voyages to the New World, and without going into the details of the hardships he suffered and the adversities he faced during these trips, it must be noted that only a man of great courage and great perseverance and strong personal character could have survived.

The memory of this tall, dignified, imaginative man who in the best tradition of our Yankee forefathers, born in Italy, educated in Portugal, and seeking capital in Spain in order to sail boldly into a completely unknown world, with nothing but the stars and crude instruments to guide him, can serve as an embodiment of the American image of vision, imagination and courage, to inspire not only future generations of Americans but to rekindle the flame of the American dream in the hearts of all of us who are privileged to live under a government which permits us the freedom to fulfill the spirit of a Columbus.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you so much, Professor Schiller, we certainly appreciate the fact you came here on this date to testify in behalf of this proposal.

Mr. WIGGINS. Just a comment. I am sitting here listening to the professor and reflecting that we have had witnesses who recounted the role not only of Italians, but also of Irishmen, Jews, and Spaniards

in the discovery of North America; but as one with Indian blood flowing through his veins I can't help but reflect—oh, what might have been.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Lt. Mario Biaggi. You are the president of the Grand Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service, Inc. We welcome you.

STATEMENT OF LT. MARIO BIAGGI, PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATIONS IN CIVIL SERVICE, INC.

Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear and testify on behalf of this bill.

The fact that Columbus Day were celebrated has been principally observed or participated in by the Italo-American community has tended to obscure the fundamental considerations for establishing as a national holiday the day that the great explorer discovered and set foot on this great land.

However, it does not and cannot detract from or diminish the enormity of the achievement, nor can it justify further delay in making its recognition a reality.

True, the proposed national holiday would pay honor—and highly deserved honor—to the man, and we of Italian extraction are mighty proud of our mutual lineage with the “admiral of the ocean seas.”

But Columbus Day as a national holiday transcends, as it must, any narrow or private considerations. The proposal has far greater significance, for the honor is one that can be fully appreciated and accepted by all Americans, indeed by all mankind.

It would salute the courage, the fortitude, and the imaginative daring which are father to all great breakthroughs, the tearing down of barriers, and the general advance of civilization.

It would salute these qualities in the minds of tomorrow's leaders, our inquisitive, adventuresome, and alert schoolchildren of today, no less than it would the most sophisticated echelons in our national scientific community.

It is noteworthy, I think, that the bill before this committee is being considered at a time when we as a nation are exploring new frontiers in space.

This is the space age. But I submit that Christopher Columbus was its progenitor. Truly it can be said that there he was the first to conquer space. His daring exploits on uncharted waters were for his time the equal of much of our space activity for our time almost five centuries later.

This is the true significance of Columbus Day as a national holiday—the commemoration of the spirit of discovery as revealed in the heart and mind and soul of a human being.

There is no need here to elaborate on historical record, but it is worth pointing out that until Christopher Columbus discovered America there had been no major exploration for more than 200 years.

But within the space of 50 years following its discovery the way was tracked and the doors opened to Canada, India, the South Seas, the Philippines, and points in between. The commercial and cultural dialog between the Old World and the New was begun and it was Christopher Columbus who spoke the first word.

The setting aside of a day to honor Christopher Columbus throughout the Nation would acknowledge America's inherent dedication to the spirit of discovery.

It would be a fitting and grand gesture which I, as an individual and as president of the Grand Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service, Inc., representing 80,000 public employees in 50 affiliated organizations, am happy to sponsor.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you so much for your statement in behalf of this legislation.

Mr. BIAGGI. My special thanks to you and the committee.

Mr. ROGERS. We have a number of statements which will be placed in the record at this point.

(The documents referred to follow :)

MILANO, October 4, 1967.

Congressman PETER RODINO,
House of Representatives Building,
Washington, D.C.:

I congratulate you on your magnificent enterprise to make Columbus Day national holiday. I am in Milan testifying in a case involving the Sacco Vanzetti tragedy. Only an event of this importance could prevent me from appearing before your committee in behalf of your bill.

Please record me as supporting this magnificent legislation and that my statement before Senate committee in 1964 on this subject may be incorporated in your hearing by reference.

Regards,

Justice MICHAEL A. MUSMANNO.

STATEMENT OF JOHN F. NAVE, STATE CHAIRMAN ON LEGISLATION, CHARTER, AND RECOGNITION, GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, IN FAVOR OF THE ENACTMENT OF HOUSE BILL(S) MAKING COLUMBUS DAY (OCTOBER 12) A LEGAL FEDERAL HOLIDAY

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Order Sons of Italy in America, a fraternal non-profit non-political organization founded, incorporated, and recognized under the Laws of the State of New York since 1911, wholeheartedly favors the enactment of House bill(s) now before your House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4 to make Columbus Day (October 12) a legal federal holiday.

This continent was discovered in 1492—475 years ago—and of which the last 191 years we have been a nation.

So much has been said and written since then—down through the centuries—on the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus that any lengthy statement would appear to take on a repetitious and superfluous meaning. Because of this, and to advance our cause, we shall indulge briefly in basic reasoning and in logical contravention of valid objections.

As loyal and devoted American citizens, we believe it is a matter of duty, honor and country that we honor finally this great man—Christopher Columbus—and the deed he performed. Certainly enough time has elapsed to favor this action.

The Federal Government of the United States of America by enacting House bill(s) now before it at this hearing would be keeping in step with the same action already taken by the overwhelming majority of the 50 States in the Union, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in declaring this day a legal public holiday.

Also, let us not forget that it would add to the Good Neighbor Policy, for Columbus Day is both a legal holiday and great day with our Latin American neighbors.

For the record it should be noted that countries which declare Columbus Day as a legal holiday in South and Central America and the year in which they proclaimed same are as follows:

1. Argentina -----	1917	10. Honduras -----	1949
2. Bolivia -----	1936	11. Nicaragua -----	1898
3. Chile -----	1921	12. Panama -----	1945
4. Colombia -----	1892	13. Paraguay -----	1939
5. Costa Rica -----	1892	14. Peru -----	1917
6. Cuba -----	1922	15. Salvador -----	1939
7. Dominican Republic -----	1912	16. Uruguay -----	1937
8. Ecuador -----	1915	17. Venezuela -----	1921
9. Guatemala -----	1913		

Thus, we find by laws enacted in the entire Western Hemisphere that Columbus Day, next to Christmas, is the most celebrated holiday. With this fact in sight, it is hard to conceive that our Federal Government does not follow suit.

Some people in good conscience and with valid reasoning oppose Columbus Day as an added legal federal holiday because it might increase highway accidents. This question was asked to be answered by the Federal Highway Administrator, Bureau of Roads, when submitted to him by a former member of the United States Senate. The Federal Highway Administrator replied with a mass of statistics and concluded as follows: "That highway accidents should not be a major consideration in any decision on the proposal that Columbus Day be made a legal holiday."

Other people object because it would cost roughly over \$50 million a year to give each federal employe an additional day off. However, they fail to realize the increase in excise taxes the Federal Government will obtain on the sale of such items as travel fares, gasoline, tobacco and other goods whose consumption rises with leisure and recreational periods. In addition, they fail to note that our business world, some representing very vital segments in industry, such as railroads, airlines, buses, manufacturers, all vital to our economy, stand to gain by additional leisure and recreational time.

Needless to say its good effect will be seen in more job opportunities, more prosperity, more good will, more excise taxes for the federal government, and a better effect on the national health and welfare.

To elaborate further on this point we note that right now Members of the Congress, News Media, and many other Americans are advocating the realignment of most of or current legal federal holidays so as to extend certain two day weekends into three day weekends for the same basic reasons which we have outlined in favor of making Columbus Day a legal federal holiday.

In other words, the trend is towards more leisure and recreation because of its tremendous beneficial effect on the American Way of Life.

To date we find our legal federal holidays to be as follows:

1. First of January -----	New Year's Day.
2. 22nd of February -----	Washington's Birthday.
3. 30th of May -----	Memorial Day.
4. 4th of July -----	Independence Day.
5. 1st Monday of September -----	Labor Day.
6. 11th of November -----	Veterans Day.
7. 4th Thursday in November -----	Thanksgiving Day.
8. 25th of December -----	Christmas Day.

To many Americans this is appalling because Columbus Day is lacking from the list. The passage of 475 years is a long time to discover something and not be recognized for it. And the passage of 191 years as a nation is certainly a long time to be in existence to have given the matter favorable consideration—long before now.

In 1964 when the United States Senate passed for the first time a bill to make Columbus Day a legal federal holiday, we noted that no federal body or agency opposed the measure, save for a former member of that Senate. After Senate passage, the bill died in your House Judiciary Committee through inaction.

Since that time the consensus seems to be that the Senate will not act on any measure to make Columbus Day a legal federal holiday until the House first takes some favorable action on the issue.

That is why this hearing on the 4th and 5th of October 1967 before your House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4 considering House Bill(s) to make Columbus Day (October 12) a legal federal holiday takes on added significance and importance.

We inhabitants of the North and South American Continents are here because of one of the greatest deeds in mankind's history—the discovery of the Western Hemisphere by Christopher Columbus.

Let us finally recognize this great deed by making Columbus Day (October 12) a legal federal holiday through the enactment of the House Bill(s) now before this House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4.

A sense of justice demands it.

We have waited long enough.

ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT OF JOHN F. NAVE

Attached are three enactments of the New York State Legislature which the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Order Sons of Italy in America had sponsored and bear direct relation in matters dealing with Columbus. They are as follows:

1. 1965 Laws of New York, Chapter 286, enacted 27 May 1965 (See Congressional Record, Thursday, 21 October 1965, pages 26 846-26 847 for history of the law)

2. 1966 Laws of New York, Chapter 392, enacted 17 May 1966

3. 1967 State of New York, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43, adopted by both Houses of the New York State Legislature, memorializing the Congress of the United States to make Columbus Day, the twelfth of October, a federal public holiday. (See Congressional Record, Monday, 3 April 1967, page H 3479, Memorials No. 113, referred to House Judiciary Committee. See Congressional Record Wednesday, 5 April 1967, page H 3602, Memorials No. 123, referred to House Judiciary Committee. See Congressional Record, Monday, 1 May 1967, page S 6105, Petition and Memorials, referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.)

We trust they are cited in full and made part of the official hearings.

In so doing we state for the Committee that under 1965 Laws of New York, Chapter 186, enacted 17 May 1965, the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Order Sons of Italy in America is to be, amongst several things, non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian in scope, nature and operation; and also to participate in the charitable, civic, educational, historical, literary, patriotic, scientific, and social life of the United States of America.

Hence, our participation in these House proceedings on making Columbus Day a legal federal holiday.

[1965 Laws of New York.—By Authority Chapter 286]

AN ACT Authorizing and directing the commissioner of general services to acquire a white marble bust of Christopher Columbus, to set aside a prominent place in the capitol building in Albany for placement and keeping of the same in an appropriate setting so as to permit the full viewing thereof by the public, to arrange for and hold suitable commemorative exercises at the unveiling of said bust, and making an appropriation for his expenses in connection therewith

Became a law May 27, 1965, with the approval of the Governor. Passed by a majority vote, three-fifth being present

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The commissioner of general services is hereby authorized and directed to acquire a white marble bust of Christopher Columbus, the great discoverer of America, and to set aside a prominent place in the capitol building at Albany for the placement thereof in an appropriate setting and with fitting aperturances so as to permit the full viewing thereof by the public and to keep the same on view at such times as the building is open to visitors. When such bust has been acquired and the setting and placement thereof has been determined, the commissioner shall arrange for and hold or cause to be held suitable commemorative exercises for and at the unveiling of such bust at a convenient time and preferably on Columbus day in the year nineteen hundred sixty-five.

SEC. 2. The sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes fund, not otherwise appropriated, to pay the expenses of the commissioner of general serv-

ices in carrying out the provisions of this act, payable on vouchers certified or approved by him after audit by and on the warrant of the comptroller.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
Department of State, ss:

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

JOHN P. LOMENZO,
Secretary of State.

[1966 Laws of New York.—By Authority Chapter 392]

AN ACT To amend chapter two hundred seventeen of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty-three, entitled "An act to validate and continue the membership corporation known as Sons of Italy Grand Lodge, and to define its powers and purposes," in relation to enlarging its power and duties and exempting it from certain provisions of the insurance law relating to fraternal benefit societies

Became a law May 17, 1966, with the approval of the Governor. Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one of chapter two hundred seventeen of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty-three, entitled "An act to validate and continue the membership corporation known as Sons of Italy Grand Lodge, and to define its powers and purposes", as last amended by chapter one hundred eighty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-five, is hereby amended by inserting therein two new subdivisions, to be subdivisions twenty-two and twenty-three, respectively, and the last undesignated paragraph of such section is hereby amended to read as follows:

22. October twelfth (Columbus day) of each year shall be the official holiday of the organization, and whenever possible, celebrated in a solemn and dignified manner, worthy of the outstanding achievement and greatness of Christopher Columbus.

23. The organization, whenever possible, shall foster and encourage Columbus day parades and affairs, memorials, works of art, statutes, busts, and other similar or related matters in reference to Christopher Columbus, including where permitted, to be placed in charge of same by public bodies or authorities.

Such corporation shall be deemed a membership corporation and such branches or lodges shall be deemed associations under the provisions of the membership corporations law, real property tax law, tax laws, and a fraternal benefit society under the provisions of the insurance law and an exempt organization under the provisions of section four hundred sixty-six thereof.

SEC. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK *ss:*
Department of State

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

JOHN P. LOMENZO,
Secretary of State.

STATE OF NEW YORK, IN SENATE, ALBANY

RESOLUTION NO. 43 MARCH 14, 1967, BY MR. GIOFFRE

Concurrent Resolution of the Legislature of the State of New York memorializing the Congress of the United States to make Columbus Day, the twelfth day of October, a federal public holiday

Whereas for many years the State of New York has accorded recognition to the great discoverer of this land, Christopher Columbus, by providing by law that the twelfth day of October in each year, the anniversary day of his discovery, be a legal public holiday in this state; and

Whereas, although many other states have also made Columbus Day a legal holiday, the government of the United States has not provided the same recognition to that intrepid and famous explorer who met and conquered the then

as yet uncharted extremities of the endless seas by making Columbus Day a federal legal public holiday; and

Whereas, it is just and fitting that Christopher Columbus be similarly honored federally for his memorable voyage and discovery of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby respectfully memorialized to enact suitable legislation to make Columbus Day, the twelfth day of October, a federal legal public holiday; and be it further

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Congress of the United States by forwarding one copy thereof to the Secretary of the Senate, one copy to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and one copy to each member of the Congress from the State of New York.

By order of the Senate,

In assembly, March 22, 1967, concurred in without amendment.

ALBERT J. ABRAMS,
Secretary,
JOHN T. MCKENNAN,
Clerk.

STATEMENT OF J. P. SOMMER

Mr. Chairman, Members of the House Judiciary Sub-Committee:—

My name is J. P. Sommer. I am privileged to appear before this distinguished body in my capacities as Coordinator of the National Columbus Day Committee; National Secretary of the Italian Executives of America, Inc., Executive Secretary of the Federation of the Italian-American Democratic Organizations of the State of New York, Inc.; public relations director of the American Graduates of Italian Universities, Inc. and Secretary of the National Information Bureau For Jewish Life, Inc.

It is most appropriate and perhaps a good omen, that you, Congressman Rogers is presiding and serving as Chairman of this Congressional hearing. For 60 years ago, in 1907, the State of Colorado, the State that you so ably represent, passed the first Columbus Day Bill in our Nation.

Since 1907, State after State, a total of 38, have enacted laws making Columbus Day, a legal holiday in a majority of the States of the Union; until today October 12th is celebrated as Columbus Day by approximately 148-million out of our 200-million population.

When the State of Colorado passed the first Columbus Day Bill, it was principally motivated by Italians and patriotic Americans of Italian extraction. Today, this has changed. In the Columbus Day parade in New York City where I live; 26% of the marchers are proud of Italian-American heritage; but the 74% balance are representative of every ethnic background. Over the years, it has truly become an All-American observance.

From time to time, there have been challenges whether Columbus was first. I am not disposed to enter into a debate about the various claims. I know that in my public schooling; I was taught Columbus discovered America in 1492 and if one answered a history examination differently one would have been marked incorrect.

But that is not the principal criteria. I am certain that others dreamed of the invention of the telephone before Alexander Graham Bell; the electric light before Thomas Alva Edison; the steamboat before Robert Fulton, or the 5 & 10 cents store before F. W. Woolworth. But, it was Bell, Edison, Fulton & Woolworth who made the dreams and aspirations come true; just as Columbus courageously made America—our America come true.

It is the Congress of the United States which is responsible in large degree for the image of the United States of America abroad. In our Western Hemisphere 17 Latin-American and South American countries celebrate Columbus Day as one of their greatest holidays. Our neighbors, south of the border do not understand the lethargy of the United States in not giving Columbus the recognition he deserves. If Congress desires to improve the U.S. image among our neighbors, the passage of the Columbus Day Bill would certainly cement better inter-American relations, at a time when our image abroad is at a low ebb.

The Committee has heard there would be a dollar value cost on making Oct. 12th a legal holiday. I am certain that Mariano A. Lucca, National Chairman of

the National Columbus Day Committee will adequately comment on this dubious contention.

Many people have questioned me about my support of Columbus Day legislation. They say, you are not Italian—why Columbus?

I have pride in my religious and ethnic background. As equal as any in this room and I have had intensive research done on Columbus' explorations. These who participated on Columbus' voyages were of every strain and stock—not only Italians, but Germans, Irish, Spanish, French, Negroes and other heritages and I am proud to say reflecting my own heritage—several Jews.

Christopher Columbus studied the charts of Jefudah Cresques, the "map Jew" in Portugal prior to his departure for the New World, subsequently America. The Jewish mathematician and royal physician Joseph Vecinho translated the astronomical tables of Abraham Zacuto, another Jew, for Columbus to carry on his journey supposedly to India or Japan. Luis de Santangel and Gabriel Sanchez, wealthy Spanish converted Jews (sometimes called "Marranos") financed Columbus' initial trip across the Atlantic. The confiscation of Jewish goods and money also paid for Columbus's second voyage. When the Spanish court refused to listen to Columbus's idea, Juan Cabrero, Sanchez and Santangel pleaded with the royalty to cooperate with the Genoa sailor. After Santangel and Sanchez voluntarily offered to finance the voyage the royalty consented to the venture. The crew of Columbus was composed of 125 men, and at least 5 were Jews. The five included Roderigo Sanchez, a relative of Gabriel, Alfonso de la Calle, Marco, the surgeon and Bernal, the ship physician. Luis de Triana, another converted Jew, was the first sailor to sight land on the new continent. Luis de Torres, a Jew, was the first white man to step on the soil of San Salvador, the first island reached by Columbus. Torres touched American terra firma on October 12, 1492, the festival day of Hoshanna Rabba. And finally, Juan Sanchez, the nephew of Gabriel, was the first man to obtain permission of the King of Spain to trade with the New World; he received the King's approval in 1502.

Columbus, in essence, was the first immigrant in America. The recognition due him by the National Congress is long overdue. Every nationality can truly join together in observance of Columbus Day.

It is the responsibility of this Committee to heed the voice of an overwhelming majority of your constituencies. That is, to vote favorably the Columbus Day Bill now.

STATEMENT BY JACK J. VALENTI, PRESIDENT OF THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

To me a mystery of the times is not that this Committee is now considering legislation to declare Columbus Day to be a National Holiday. The mystery, which puzzles me considerably, is that the day commemorating the discovery of the New World was not long ago so designated, to take its rightful place with other holidays cherished by a grateful people.

Of course, Columbus Day should be a National Holiday, and, though belated, such a designation by the Congress would, in my judgment, receive the warm approval and the sincere thanks of the entire nation, now grown mighty in the eventful years since 1492.

The life of a country, precious and delicate, is a lasting thing. It begins from frail and tiny roots and continues in growth through civilized time. Milestones along the way remind us of our heritage and our traditions; they testify with eloquence to those processes which have fused to make us what we are, and what we are to become.

Columbus Day honors more than an individual, a man who so abundantly deserves our homage. It honors an idea, a state of mind, a condition of being. We came from ancestors who did not see a darkened future, though life was at times for them dark and grindingly hard. Our forebears were always led forward by the glow of hope and promise. They deeply felt that dreams could come true, and they realized many in their times as we have many in ours, and as we shall achieve more in our unlimited future.

So we do not ask to enshrine a man or make of him a saint. He was a man—a man of value.

It is much more that we do. On one day each year we propose to make ourselves one with this past, with the discovery that made all things possible in the United States. This is how I look upon Columbus Day as a National Holiday.

I hope, by the wise action of this Congress, that October 12, 1968—a year hence—and all others to follow, will be a National Holiday.

STATEMENT OF JOHN N. LACORTE, DIRECTOR, ITALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

My name is John N. LaCorte. I am Founder and Director of the Italian Historical Society of America, with headquarters at 113 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York.

The Italian Historical Society enthusiastically supports H.R. 2372, which would declare October 12—Columbus Day—to be a legal holiday observed throughout the nation by all Americans. It does so not only because a native son of Italy discovered the land in which we are privileged to enjoy our American heritage, but because the discovery of Columbus was truly symbolic.

The discovery of Columbus has special significance for all of us because all Americans trace their origins to explorers who have come to this great land over the last five centuries. It is to Columbus, the first immigrant, that Americans are indebted for the great influence that migration has asserted upon our nation—an influence which brought about a new concept in modern civilization and made possible the America of today.

In addition to lighting a torch of hope for all the others who have come to our shore, the discovery of Columbus, like our American heritage which it has made possible, also represents the combined efforts of many peoples. We need only to be reminded of the fact that although Columbus was an Italian, his voyage and historic discovery were made possible by Spanish funds. Seamen of many lands composed the crews.

As the fruits of Columbus' discovery have been harvested by all Americans, of all races, color and creed, all Americans should welcome a national holiday commemorating that event. It will thus be a holiday with a distinctively American character.

Out of deference, therefore, not to Americans of Italian extraction, but for the significance of that discovery, the Italian Historical Society urges the passage of H.R. 2372. This bill would demonstrate in a positive and permanent way the significance of the discovery of the New York by establishing October 12, Columbus Day, as a national and legal holiday.

Support for this measure is not confined to one geographic area or to one ethnic group. Members of the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, representing every part of America and Americans of every race, color and creed, have introduced similar legislation. As President Lyndon Johnson aptly noted in his Columbus Day message of 1966, "there is something of Columbus in every American." All America and all Americans should have the opportunity to celebrate this significant even in a special way.

In 1934, the Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the President of the United States to proclaim October 12 as Columbus Day in observance of the anniversary of the discovery of America. Several States have made Columbus Day an official holiday. Schools and civic associations throughout our land present programs in honor of Columbus. Yet Congress, despite overwhelming support for this legislation, has never seen fit to take the next logical step and elevate Columbus Day to the status of a national legal holiday. H.R. 2372 would accomplish this purpose.

The Italian Historical Society of America enthusiastically endorses this bill and urges favorable recommendation by this committee and prompt passage by the Congress of the United States.

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, the 34 AFL-CIO unions associated with the Council join in their support of the pending bill.

We desire to commend the numerous members of the House who have introduced proposals to appropriately commemorate Columbus Day as a national holiday.

Designation of national holidays is a custom intended to highlight the rich heritage of our Nation. Specifying certain days for national observance underscores those events in our history which have contributed significantly to our status as the most enduring democracy in the world.

In this sense, the discovery of our land by Christopher Columbus certainly deserves special attention. As a mark of respect for the historical origin of the country, designation of Columbus Day for national observance is completely appropriate.

When we recall the trying circumstances under which Columbus made his first voyage to the New World, the event borders on the miraculous. Defying the belief of the time that the world was flat, the intrepid captain and his crew endured hardships we can hardly conceive in completing the journey to our shores. Their success is astounding when we consider the almost insuperable obstacles encountered in preparing and executing the voyage.

From this beginning, the United States was born as a result of revolution, and our country has survived as a nation through civil strife and world wars. Today, we enjoy material and spiritual well-being which is the envy of the world. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the daring and imagination displayed by Columbus.

Many other nations of the world recognize the amazing contribution of Columbus. Many countries in South America and parts of Canada observe the discovery of America in 1492.

Here in the United States, 38 states have approved Columbus Day as a legal holiday. Special honor is appropriately paid to the Italian navigator in all parts of our country.

In the annals of history, there can be no doubt that Columbus' venture into the unknown, uncharted seas, under conditions of serious personal privation to himself and his crew will live as an example of superlative courage and imagination.

Our country enjoys the greatest prosperity of any nation in history. We have an expanding economy. We have established an unparalleled standard of living. We are concentrating on alleviating the social and economic problems of the poor and on integrating all segments of our population into the affluent society we have made.

Through strife and battle we have maintained the principles so strongly evidenced in Columbus' character. We have given hope to the unfortunate, down-trodden peoples of the world. The United States is engaged in the critical mission of making that hope a reality for all the citizens of our own country.

All of this progress reflects the characteristics exhibited by Christopher Columbus in his quest for new discoveries.

As our astronauts probe the mysteries and challenges of outer space, there can be no doubt that the same dauntless courage and persistence typified by Columbus is evident in their work. Thus, to this day, the work of the Italian navigator influences our progress.

This has been true throughout our 5 centuries of existence. The earliest settlers, the pioneers, the industrialists, the labor leaders—all have contributed greatly to our nation's forward movement because they possessed the same attributes as Christopher Columbus.

Therefore, we earnestly urge favorable action by the Subcommittee on the pending bill.

Mr. Chairman, on August 17, 1967, the Council presented a statement to the Subcommittee on H.R. 1292 and H.J. Res. 301 and related bills designating certain existing national holidays for observance on Monday. At that time, we advocated inclusion of Columbus Day among them.

In considering the bill now under consideration, we recommend to the Subcommittee that Columbus Day be observed on Monday for reasons cited in our August 17, 1967 statement.

The Council appreciates very much this occasion for presenting our views.

LODGE CESARE BATTISTI, N. 27, ITALO AMERICAN NATIONAL UNION,
EAST CHICAGO, IND.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Lodge Cesare Battisti, n.27, of the Italo-American National Union, in East Chicago, Indiana, is composed of citizens of Italian extraction residing in Lake County, Indiana; and

Whereas this organization has always been in favor and constantly supported legislation to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and

Whereas this year there are several bills in the National Congress that would make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and

Whereas the House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4, Congressman Byron C. Rogers (Demo-Colorado), Chairman, has formally announced the scheduling of

hearings on Columbus Day bills on the dates of Wednesday and Thursday, October 4th and 5th, 1967, in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas the officers of the Lodge Cesare Battisti n.27, Italo American National Union, assembled in special meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 1967, to consider this question again; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Lodge Cesare Battisti n.27 of the Italo-American National Union hereby recommends to the National Congress that it pass this year a bill to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Byron G. Rogers; Congressman Frank Annunzio; Congressman Ray J. Madden; U.S. Senator Vance Hartke; U.S. Senator Birch Bayh; and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

FRANCIS J. GEMIGNANI,
President.

RICHARD McCoy,
Secretary.

FEDERATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN SOCIETIES OF INDIANA.

September 29, 1967.

Congressman BYRON G. ROGERS,
*Chairman, House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROGERS: On behalf of the Indiana Federation of American-Italian Societies, we wish to express our support of the legislation which you and your committee will consider on October 4 and 5 to make Columbus Day a Legal Holiday.

Our federation is a council of 26 American-Italian clubs throughout the state—all of whom individually and collectively as a federation favor this Columbus Day legislation.

Favorable action on making Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday would meet with approval not only with the Italian community, but with the total Indiana community as well.

Therefore, we urge that you and your sub-committee report favorably a bill to make Columbus Day a Federal Legal Holiday upon conclusion of the hearings.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. CORTESE,
President.

SAM BUSHEMI,
Vice President.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE OLDEST INHABITANTS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, D.C., October 10, 1967.

Hon. PETER W. RODINO, Jr.,
*U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RODINO: At our meeting held on October 4, 1967, we passed a resolution endorsing your Bill H.R. 2372, declaring October 12 to be a legal holiday and to be known as "Columbus Day".

Wishing you success, I remain

Sincerely yours,

LEO F. DIEGELMANN,
Acting Secretary.

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION,
Brooklyn, N.Y., October 5, 1967.

OUR DEBT TO COLUMBUS

To whom our age is greatly indebted; Columbus; a man who had the persistence, knowledge, and courage to sail the unknown oceans. The significant idea of his voyage was that he could reach the East by sailing West, and thus opened a vast new continent. His discovery altered the whole current of world affairs.

Seventy-five per cent of our United States acknowledge Columbus Day as a legal holiday, including the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

On this 475th Anniversary, let us pay our respects to this great man by proclaiming Columbus Day, Oct. 12th, a National Legal Holiday.

SAM J. BAGLINO, *President.*

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN-ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP,
Washington, D.C., October 3, 1967.

Hon. BYRON G. ROGERS,
Chairman, House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 4, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: I am Leonard H. Pasqualicchio, President of the National Council for American-Italian Friendship, Inc. May we say that we favor the objectives of Bill HR-2372, introduced during the present session of the 90th Congress; to declare the 12th day of October of each year a National Holiday, as "Columbus Day". Having been registered for many years under the Federal Lobbying Act, I come in contact with many Members of Congress, and I know that the majority of them are not in favor of creating another National Holiday at this time. Appreciating the intelligence and mature judgment of our Members of Congress, we hereby wish to register our objections to the approval of Bill HR-2372.

We must realize that we have, at this very moment, a terrible war on our hands, and we feel that this is not the proper time to create one more National Holiday in America while thousands of our boys are being killed on the battlefield in Viet Nam.

Enacting such a Bill to honor Christopher Columbus will in no way enhance the historic honor the Great Italian Navigator has enjoyed for the past 475 years.

It is indeed a distinct privilege and an honor for me to present this Statement to this most Honorable and August body, and sincerely hope that you will give this Statement serious and favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

L. H. PASQUALICCHIO, *President.*

ITALIAN AMERICAN WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.
Hartford, Conn., September 30, 1967.

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN: As the National Commander of the Italian-American War Veterans, I, Joseph J. Villano, do hereby express on behalf of my entire organization that we are in favor that Legislation be enacted making Columbus Day a legal Federal Holiday.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH J. VILLANO, *National Commander.*

STATE OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Albany, October 3, 1967.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Judiciary Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: It is respectfully submitted to the honorable members of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives that October 12 of each year should be established as a federal legal holiday. As of 1966, thirty-four of our fifty states accorded this observance such recognition.

The significance of Columbus Day is meaningful to all of us, as Americans, regardless of our ancestry. For the glory of Columbus's achievement is reflected in every life and, indeed, in every land.

The grandeur of his voyage rests not so much upon his navigation of the uncharted seas to a new world, great though that achievement was.

The legacy Columbus left us is a human one. It is to be found in the unquenchable thirst of mankind for greater knowledge, and in the unswerving resolve to overcome every frustration, every adversity in quest of it. It is, in essence, the

spirit of hope, which inspires and elevates every man in his pursuit of happiness.

His discovery of the new world became possible only because he had faith in his own high purpose and the strength of will to persevere against the greatest odds.

The accomplishment of Columbus provides an example which the world, whose knowledge he did so much to advance, would do well to take for its own.

To no man in modern history does the world owe a greater debt than to Columbus.

The establishment of the anniversary of his discovery as a federal legal holiday would serve as a continuing tribute to the memory of this great man and his achievements.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. LOMENZO, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. ROGERS. The subcommittee will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m. the subcommittee adjourned subject to call of the Chair.)



