

KATHERINE IMBRIE

FEBRUARY 10, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LINTHICUM, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 112]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which was referred Senate Joint Resolution 112, for the relief of Katherine Imbrie, having considered the same, reports it to the House herewith with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Page 1, after line 9, insert the following:

The acceptance of this sum by Katherine Imbrie shall be in full settlement of all claims or demands for personal injuries suffered by her and for the death of her husband.

The committee submits herewith a statement in behalf of Mrs. Imbrie.

Katherine Gillespie Imbrie, with confidence that the right and justness of her cause will prevail, respectfully submits the following plain statement of facts upon which she bases her claim for equitable relief in the nature of adequate compensatory damages for the violent, wrongful death of her husband, Robert Whitney Imbrie, vice consul of the United States of America, at the hands of an unprovoked mob, while on active duty at Teheran, Persia, July 18, 1924; and for the ensuing physical and mental suffering and anguish and loss to herself directly caused thereby and resulting therefrom and from a personal attack on herself at Teheran, Persia, July 23, 1924:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Whitney Imbrie was born in Washington, D. C., April 23, 1883. He was graduated from George Washington University in 1905, and received the degree of Master of Laws from Yale University in 1906.

He was engaged in the practice of law from this time until 1914, with the exception of the year 1911, during which he was attached to the Garner Scientific and Exploring Expedition to the African Congo.

At the outbreak of the World War in 1914 he joined the American Ambulance Corps, brigaded with the French Army, serving in various active sectors in the early part of the war, including the siege of Verdun in 1916. In this connection, he is the author of a book entitled "Behind the Wheel of a War Ambulance," published by the Robert M. McBride Co., of New York, in 1918. Volunteering for the French oriental expedition, based at Saloniki, later he was stricken with fever and returned to the United States.

In August, 1917, he was appointed vice consul of the United States at Petrograd, serving there and at other near-by points in northern Russia. In December, 1919, he was sent to Viborg, Finland, on the Russian border, whence he was assigned to Constantinople in the autumn of 1920.

He was married December 26, 1922, at Constantinople to Miss Katherine Gillespie, of Boston, Mass., when she was directing the Near East Relief Orphanage at that place, also acting as intermediary between the Near East Relief and the Angora Government.

While on the Constantinople assignment, Major Imbrie was detailed to Angora, the seat of the Turkish Nationalist Government, for many months, and was a special delegate of the United States to the Lausanne conference, 1923. He was assigned as vice consul to Persia, arriving at Teheran in the spring of 1924.

Major Imbrie was an author and lecturer; a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England; and had received 10 decorations from foreign governments.

On the morning of July 18, 1924, at about the hour of noon, Robert Whitney Imbrie, vice consul of the United States of America at Teheran, Persia, who occupied the post of consul general at the time, was butchered to death by an unprovoked mob in that capital under circumstances of the most diabolical and revolting nature.

A copy of the post-mortem report of Dr. H. P. Packard, in charge of the American hospital at Teheran, who attended Imbrie, discloses in detail the ghastly wounds about the head, face, and hands, and the contusions and lacerations present over most of his body, which showed more than 138 wounds, many of them clean cuts which could only have been produced by a sword or other sharp-edged instrument.

Major Imbrie was attacked first on the street in front of military barracks housing the Pahlevi regiment of the Persian Army, commanded by a Col. Hassan Agha. The carriage in which he was riding was first halted by a Persian secret police officer on motor cycle, and the first blows were struck by a colonel of a Persian Cossack regiment. The mob followed him later into the Persian police headquarters and hospital, a short distance away, where Major Imbrie had taken refuge, tearing tiles from the floor of the operating room to inflict a number of jagged additional wounds upon his body, several of them stripping the scalp from the skull.

In spite of his terrible wounds and suffering, Major Imbrie retained consciousness to the last, his only expressed thoughts being of his work for our Government, for the safety of his wife, and directing that a double guard be placed about the hospital to prevent a reentry of his murderers. With ebbing life blood and weakening powers, his spirit was unconquerable, and he made no outcry or complaint. He collapsed and died about an hour after his wounds were dressed, or about 3 p. m., July 18, 1924.

Upon receiving word from a Persian servant of Dr. H. P. Packard, who witnessed the attack and who notified the American consulate and Doctor Packard that Major Imbrie had been attacked by a mob, his wife, Mrs. Katherine G. Imbrie, with Doctor Packard and the native Persian clerk of the American consulate, a Mr. Bethlian, made haste to the Persian police headquarters and hospital.

After some difficulty with the police, who at first refused the party admittance, Mrs. Imbrie (who obtained entrance by avoiding the guard and going through the garden of the hospital—and Doctor Packard a little later, after arguing with the guard) reached the operating room, where a badly confused Persian doctor was attempting to dress the mutilated body of the vice consul.

After a few moment's view of this terrible scene, Mrs. Imbrie was forced from the operating room of the hospital, and Doctor Packard started to stanch the flow of blood and dress the wounds of the injured man, assuring him that Mrs. Imbrie (who had not spoken to her husband) was safe and would be awaiting him outside of the operating room.

Other physicians arrived soon, and after a short time, as Mrs. Imbrie's physical condition was not such that she could stay at the hospital, upon instructions of Doctor Packard she returned to the consulate; but, after telephoning and

learning that Major Imbrie's condition was desperate, she immediately returned to the hospital. In the interim, however, Major Imbrie had died. Mrs. Imbrie was then ordered back to the American consulate.

On July 22, 1924, four days after the murder of the vice consul, while waiting in an automobile outside of the office of a Persian physician, Doctor Habibe, Mrs. Imbrie was attacked by a Persian, one of a number who were passing at the time, who jumped on the running board of the automobile and seized her by the head, and a moment later by another Persian, who grabbed her by the throat and spat upon her.

Before this deliberate, malicious assault could be further advanced on the person of Mrs. Imbrie, Dr. H. P. Packard, of the American hospital at Teheran, who was driving the automobile, succeeded in shaking off her assailants and drove rapidly from the scene. The crowd which had assembled by this time, however, hurled stones and other missiles at the escaping car and its two occupants for some time, until they reached the safety of the American consulate.

Mrs. Imbrie, after a short time, went into the American hospital at Teheran for immediate medical attention.

As the result of the shock to her, caused by the murderous assault on her husband, followed four days later by the attack on herself, and the heart-rending ordeal through which she went, with its attendant suffering and distress, Mrs. Katherine G. Imbrie, who was enceinte at the time, suffered the additional tragedy of the loss of her child by its premature birth.

On her return to the United States Mrs. Imbrie was obliged to undergo a serious operation, which, from its nature, her physicians here in Washington advise her is likely to occasion the necessity of future medical and surgical treatment. As late as August 16, 1925, at a consultation of three physicians in attendance upon her she was advised that the exact extent and duration of her disabilities could not be stated definitely as yet.

Mrs. Imbrie, therefore, suffered the loss not only of her husband and natural protector, but the additional crushing loss of her child, both directly resulting from this frightful assault on her husband and by the later attack on herself.

RÉSUMÉ

In the statement issued by the Department of State, addressed to the President, our Government, in its note of July 26, 1924, addressed to the Persian Government, made five demands, among which was the payment of the expenses in the dispatch of the U. S. S. *Trenton* to Persia, which afterwards was ascertained to be \$110,000, and that on July 29, 1924, the Persian Government agreed to these demands in full, and subsequently the Persian Government paid the money, which went into the Treasury of the United States. That the matter then became a closed contract.

At that time there was no mention of the use of this \$110,000 as a trust fund for the education of Persian students, and no such request was made by the Persian Government, but when tendered was accepted by them on December 15, 1924, for which they expressed appreciation.

It will be observed from the testimony taken at the hearing upon the bill that five demands were made and the sum of \$60,000 to be paid to Katherine Gillespie Imbrie, the widow of Vice Consul Imbrie, were made by our Government without any consultation, conference, or correspondence with said widow and even without her knowledge.

It will be further observed that our State Department did not know of the additional suffering, humiliation, and loss which the widow testified she endured by virtue of an attack upon her personally four days after the murder of her husband, to wit, July 22, 1924, when she was seized by the head, and later by another Persian

who grasped her by the throat, as set forth in her statement herewith printed, nor was the State Department aware that the widow as testified by her was at the time enciente and that she suffered loss of her child by premature birth owing to this attack and of her weakened condition caused by the murder of her husband, the terrible suspense of being in a foreign country and of the humiliation and hazard which she was compelled to endure.



In the statement issued by the Department of State, which was the first official statement of the case, it was stated that the widow was at the time of the attack enciente and that she suffered loss of her child by premature birth owing to this attack and of her weakened condition caused by the murder of her husband, the terrible suspense of being in a foreign country and of the humiliation and hazard which she was compelled to endure.

It will be observed from the statement that at the time of the attack the widow was enciente and that she suffered loss of her child by premature birth owing to this attack and of her weakened condition caused by the murder of her husband, the terrible suspense of being in a foreign country and of the humiliation and hazard which she was compelled to endure.

It will be further observed that the State Department did not know of the additional suffering, humiliation and loss which the widow suffered as a result of the attack upon her person, namely, the loss of her child by premature birth, and that she was at the time of the attack enciente and that she suffered loss of her child by premature birth owing to this attack and of her weakened condition caused by the murder of her husband, the terrible suspense of being in a foreign country and of the humiliation and hazard which she was compelled to endure.