Public Law 96-317
96th Congress

An Act

July 31, 1980
[S. 1647]

To establish a Commission to gather facts to determine whether any wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens affected by Executive Order Numbered 9066, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act.
50 USC app. 1981 note.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act".

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

50 USC app. 1981 note

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) approximately one hundred and twenty thousand civilians were relocated and detained in internment camps pursuant to Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and other associated actions of the Federal Government;

3 CFR, 1938-1943 Comp., p. 1092.

(2) approximately one thousand Aleut civilian American citizens were relocated and, in some cases, detained in internment camps pursuant to directives of United States military forces during World War II and other associated actions of the Federal Government; and

(3) no sufficient inquiry has been made into the matters described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish a commission to—

(1) review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens;

(2) review directives of United States military forces requiring the relocation and, in some cases, detention in internment camps of American citizens, including Aleut civilians, and permanent resident aliens of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands; and

(3) recommend appropriate remedies.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

50 USC app. 1981 note.

SEC. 3. (a) There is established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

Membership.

(b) The Commission shall be composed of seven members, who shall be appointed within ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

(1) Three members shall be appointed by the President.

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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(3) Two members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

(c) The term of office for members shall be for the life of the Commission. A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Term.

(d) The first meeting of the Commission shall be called by the President within one hundred and twenty days after the date of enactment of this Act, or within thirty days after the date on which legislation is enacted making appropriations to carry out this Act, whichever date is later. Meetings.

(e) Four members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings. Quorum.

(f) The Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members. The term of office of each shall be for the life of the Commission.

(g) Each member of the Commission who is not otherwise employed by the United States Government shall receive compensation at a rate equal to the daily rate prescribed for GS-18 under the General Schedule contained in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, including traveltime, he or she is engaged in the actual performance of his or her duties as a member of the Commission. A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the United States Government shall serve without additional compensation. All members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. Compensation.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 4. (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission to— 50 USC app. 1981 note.

(1) review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens; Review. 3 CFR 1938-1943. Comp., p. 1092.

(2) review directives of United States military forces requiring the relocation and, in some cases, detention in internment camps of American citizens, including Aleut civilians, and permanent resident aliens of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands; and

(3) recommend appropriate remedies.

(b) The Commission shall hold public hearings in such cities of the United States that it finds appropriate. Hearings.

(c) The Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to Congress not later than the date which is one year after the date of the first meeting called pursuant to section 3(d) of this Act. Report to Congress.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 5. (a) The Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, and request the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandum, papers, and documents as the Commission or such subcommittee or member may deem advisable. The Commission may request the Attorney General to invoke the aid of an appropriate United States district court to require, by subpoena or otherwise, such attendance, testimony, or production. 50 USC app. 1981 note.

(b) The Commission may acquire directly from the head of any department, agency, independent instrumentality, or other authority of the executive branch of the Government, available information which the Commission considers useful in the discharge of its duties. All departments, agencies, and independent instrumentalities, or other authorities of the executive branch of the Government shall cooperate with the Commission and furnish all information requested by the Commission to the extent permitted by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

50 USC app. 1981 note.

SEC. 6. The Commission is authorized to—

(1) appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the compensation of any employee of the Commission may not exceed a rate equivalent to the rate payable under GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title;

5 USC 5101 *et seq.*, 5331.

5 USC 5332.

(2) obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of such title;

5 USC 3109.

(3) enter into agreements with the Administrator of General Services for procurement of necessary financial and administrative services, for which payment shall be made by reimbursement from funds of the Commission in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman of the Commission and the Administrator;

(4) procure supplies, services, and property by contract in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts; and

(5) enter into contracts with Federal or State agencies, private firms, institutions, and agencies for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of the duties of the Commission, to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

TERMINATION

SEC. 7. The Commission shall terminate ninety days after the date on which the report of the Commission is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 4(c) of this Act. 50 USC app. 1981 note.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 8. To carry out the provisions of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated $1,500,000. 50 USC app. 1981 note.

Approved July 31, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-1146 accompanying H.R. 5499 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
SENATE REPORT No. 96-751 (Comm. on Governmental Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):
May 22, considered and passed Senate.
July 21, H.R. 5499 passed House; passage vacated and S. 1647, amended, passed in lieu.
July 24, Senate concurred in House amendment.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 31:
July 31, Presidential statement.