

Commission Mandate

Public law 96-317, passed July 31, 1980, established a Commission to gather facts to determine whether any wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens affected by Executive Order 9066, and for other purposes.

Duties of the Commission

- To review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive Order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens.
- To 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.
- To recommend appropriate remedies.
- The Commission shall hold public hearings in such cities of the United States that it finds appropriate.
- The Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations not later than one year after the date of its first meeting.

Commission Members

Joan Zeldes Bernstein, Chair

Ms. Bernstein is a partner with Wald, Harkrader & Ross. She has served as General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency, and was named Vice Chair of the council of the Administrative Conference of the United States. Ms. Bernstein received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and her LL.B. from Yale Law School.

Daniel E. Lungren, Vice Chair

Congressman Lungren is a second term member from Long Beach, California, and serves on the House Judiciary Committee, the Select Committee on Aging, and the Republican Task Force on Congressional and Regulatory Reform. Mr. Lungren received his B.A. from Notre Dame University and J.D. from Georgetown University.

Senator Edward W. Brooke

Mr. Brooke is partner with O'Connor & Hannan. He has served as attorney general for Massachusetts and United States Senator.

Father Robert F. Drinan

Father Drinan is president of Americans for Democratic Action. He has been active in civic affairs and was a member of Congress from 1970-1980. He is an ordained Jesuit priest.

Dr. Arthur S. Flemming

Dr. Flemming is Chairman of the United States Civil Rights Commission. Dr. Flemming has been Secretary of HEW, Chairman of the White House Conference on Aging, Special Counsel to the President on Aging, and many other important positions in public service.

Justice Arthur J. Goldberg

Justice Goldberg has been Secretary of Labor, Associate Justice in the United States Supreme Court, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, and Ambassador at-large for the United States. He is president of the American Jewish Committee.

Father I. V. Gromoff

Father Gromoff is an ordained Russian Orthodox priest from Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands. He has been active in the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association and was relocated to Funter Bay camp during World War II.

Judge William M. Marutani

Judge Marutani presently serves on the bench for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Senator Hugh B. Mitchell

Senator Mitchell was appointed to the U.S. Senate from Washington state, and served as a member of Congress from the 1st District of Washington for two terms.

Commission Hearings

Washington, D.C. July 14 and 16, 1981
 Los Angeles, California August 4, 5, and 6, 1981
 San Francisco, California August 11, 12, and 13, 1981
 Seattle, Washington September 9, 10, and 11, 1981
 Anchorage, Alaska September 15, 1981
 Aleutian Islands (Unalaska) . . . September 17, 1981
 Pribilof Islands (St. Paul) September 19, 1981
 Chicago, Illinois September 22 and 23, 1981

How to Participate

The Commission is interested in hearing from you. The members of the Commission would like to be informed of the views of concerned individuals and would like to encourage statements which will provide a framework for discovering the facts of the relocation and internment of civilians. The Commission welcomes your views and suggestions.

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

New Executive Office Building

726 Jackson Place, NW

Suite 2020

Washington, D.C. 20506

Telephone: (202) 395-7390

SUMMARY - PUBLIC LAW 96-317COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS ACT

AN ACT 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.

FINDINGS

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

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

NO SUFFICIENT INQUIRY HAS BEEN MADE INTO THESE MATTERS

COMMISSION
ESTABLISHED

SEVEN MEMBERS (LATER AMENDED TO NINE)

THREE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

TWO (LATER AMENDED TO THREE) APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWO (LATER AMENDED TO THREE) APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

DUTIES OF
COMMISSION

TO 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

TO 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 THE ALEUTIAN AND Pribilof Islands

TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE REMEDIES

THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS IN SUCH CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES THAT IT FINDS APPROPRIATE.

THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 1982.

POWERS OF
COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION MAY HOLD HEARINGS, REQUEST THE ATTENDANCE AND TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES AND THE PRODUCTION OF BOOKS, RECORDS, CORRESPONDENCE, MEMORANDUM, PAPERS, AND DOCUMENTS. 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.

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.

AUTHORIZATION OF
APPROPRIATIONS

\$1,500,000 AUTHORIZED. \$1,000,000 APPROPRIATED

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION

202/395-7390

COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS
SUITE 2020, NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 726 JACKSON PLACE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506