

Calendar No. 862

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 2442**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 1999

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Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 28 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Reported by Mr. HATCH with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

To provide for the preparation of a Government report detailing injustices suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, and a formal acknowledgment of such injustices by the President.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wartime Violation of
5 Italian American Civil Liberties Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The freedom of more than 600,000 Italian-
4 born immigrants in the United States and their fam-
5 ilies was restricted during World War II by Govern-
6 ment measures that branded them “enemy aliens”
7 and included carrying identification cards, travel re-
8 strictions, and seizure of personal property.

9 (2) During World War II more than 10,000
10 Italian Americans living on the West Coast were
11 forced to leave their homes and prohibited from en-
12 tering coastal zones. More than 50,000 were sub-
13 jected to curfews.

14 (3) During World War II thousands of Italian
15 American immigrants were arrested, and hundreds
16 were interned in military camps.

17 (4) Hundreds of thousands of Italian Ameri-
18 cans performed exemplary service and thousands
19 sacrificed their lives in defense of the United States.

20 (5) At the time, Italians were the largest for-
21 eign-born group in the United States, and today are
22 the fifth largest immigrant group in the United
23 States, numbering approximately 15 million.

24 (6) The impact of the wartime experience was
25 devastating to Italian American communities in the
26 United States, and its effects are still being felt.

1 (7) A deliberate policy kept these measures
2 from the public during the war. Even 50 years later
3 much information is still classified, the full story re-
4 mains unknown to the public, and it has never been
5 acknowledged in any official capacity by the United
6 States Government.

7 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

8 The ~~Inspector~~ *Attorney* General of the Department
9 of ~~Justice~~ shall conduct a comprehensive review of the
10 treatment by the United States Government of Italian
11 Americans during World War II, and not later than one
12 year after the date of the enactment of this Act shall sub-
13 mit to the Congress a report that documents the findings
14 of such review. The report shall cover the period between
15 September 1, 1939, and December 31, 1945, and shall
16 include the following:

17 (1) The names of all Italian Americans who
18 were taken into custody in the initial roundup fol-
19 lowing the attack on Pearl Harbor, and prior to the
20 United States declaration of war against Italy.

21 (2) The names of all Italian Americans who
22 were taken into custody.

23 (3) The names of all Italian Americans who
24 were interned and the location where they were in-
25 terned.

1 (4) The names of all Italian Americans who
2 were ordered to move out of designated areas under
3 the United States Army's "Individual Exclusion
4 Program".

5 (5) The names of all Italian Americans who
6 were arrested for curfew, contraband, or other viola-
7 tions under the authority of Executive Order No.
8 9066.

9 (6) Documentation of Federal Bureau of Inves-
10 tigation raids on the homes of Italian Americans.

11 (7) A list of ports from which Italian American
12 fishermen were restricted.

13 (8) The names of Italian American fishermen
14 who were prevented from fishing in prohibited zones
15 and therefore unable to pursue their livelihoods.

16 (9) The names of Italian Americans whose
17 boats were confiscated.

18 (10) The names of Italian American railroad
19 workers who were prevented from working in prohib-
20 ited zones.

21 (11) A list of all civil liberties infringements
22 suffered by Italian Americans during World War II,
23 as a result of Executive Order No. 9066, including
24 internment, hearings without benefit of counsel, ille-
25 gal searches and seizures, travel restrictions, enemy

1 alien registration requirements, employment restric-
2 tions, confiscation of property, and forced evacuation
3 from homes.

4 (12) An explanation of ~~why some~~ *whether*
5 Italian Americans were subjected to civil liberties in-
6 fringements, as a result of Executive Order No.
7 9066, ~~while and if so, why~~ other Italian Americans
8 were not.

9 (13) A review of the wartime restrictions on
10 Italian Americans to determine how civil liberties
11 can be better protected during national emergencies.

12 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of the Congress that—

14 (1) the story of the treatment of Italian Ameri-
15 cans during World War II needs to be told in order
16 to acknowledge that these events happened, to re-
17 member those whose lives were unjustly disrupted
18 and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair the
19 damage to the Italian American community, and to
20 discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and
21 violations of civil liberties in the future;

22 (2) Federal agencies, including the Department
23 of Education and the National Endowment for the
24 Humanities, should support projects such as—

1 (A) conferences, seminars, and lectures to
2 heighten awareness of this unfortunate chapter
3 in our Nation's history;

4 (B) the refurbishment of and payment of
5 all expenses associated with the traveling ex-
6 hibit "Una Storia Segreta", exhibited at major
7 cultural and educational institutions throughout
8 the United States; and

9 (C) documentaries to allow this issue to be
10 presented to the American public to raise its
11 awareness;

12 (3) an independent, volunteer advisory com-
13 mittee should be established comprised of represent-
14 atives of Italian American organizations, historians,
15 and other interested individuals to assist in the com-
16 pilation, research, and dissemination of information
17 concerning the treatment of Italian Americans; and

18 (4) after completion of the report required by
19 this Act, financial support should be provided for the
20 education of the American public through the pro-
21 duction of a documentary film suited for public
22 broadcast.

23 **SEC. 5. FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

24 (5) The President ~~shall~~ *should*, on behalf of the
25 United States Government, formally acknowledge

1 that these events during World War II represented
2 a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans.

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