

## Calendar No. 862

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 1999

Received

NOVEMBER 19, 1999

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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