

development, and many countries have begun the difficult and wrenching process of trying to right the past wrongs of previous totalitarian regimes;

Whereas restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongly plundered by Nazi or Communist regimes to reside in or have the citizenship of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation are arbitrary and discriminatory in violation of international law; and

Whereas the rule of law and democratic norms require that the activity of governments and their administrative agencies be exercised in accordance with the laws passed by their parliaments or legislatures and such laws themselves must be consistent with international human rights standards: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) welcomes the efforts of many post-Communist countries to address the complex and difficult question of the status of plundered properties;

(2) urges countries which have not already done so to return plundered properties to their rightful owners or, as an alternative, pay compensation, in accordance with principles of justice and in a manner that is just, transparent, and fair;

(3) calls for the urgent return of property formerly belonging to Jewish communities as a means of redressing the particularly compelling problems of aging and destitute survivors of the Holocaust;

(4) calls on the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and any other country with restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongly plundered by Nazi or Communist regimes to reside in or have the citizenship of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation to remove such restrictions from their restitution or compensation laws;

(5) calls upon foreign financial institutions, and the states having legal authority over their operation, that possess wrongfully and illegally property confiscated from Holocaust victims, from residents of former Warsaw Pact states who were forbidden by Communist law from obtaining restitution of such property, and from states that were occupied by Nazi, Fascist, or Communist forces, to assist and to cooperate fully with efforts to restore this property to its rightful owners; and

(6) urges post-Communist countries to pass and effectively implement laws that provide for restitution of, or compensation for, plundered property.

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I submit a concurrent resolution which addresses a number of distinct, but closely related, property issues. It follows up on work already done by the Helsinki Commission, which held a hearing on this subject on July 18, 1996. This same concurrent resolution is being submitted today in the House by the Commission's distinguished Chairman, my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, Congressman CHRIS SMITH. It is cosponsored by the majority of the Commission.

The substance of this concurrent resolution has been discussed with the Administration and parallels and supports the work being done by Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Stuart E. Eizenstat, who also serves as the U.S. Department of State Special Envoy for Property Claims in Central and Eastern Europe.

I strongly believe that there must be a full, complete and final accounting of

the assets of Holocaust victims that have been wrongfully held by Swiss—and possibly other banks—for some five decades now. Those records must be opened, and the stolen assets returned to their rightful heirs. This concurrent resolution addresses that issue.

It also addresses the compelling situation of Holocaust survivors in Central and Eastern Europe. Many of these people, unlike their counterparts in Western Europe, were denied the chance to receive any compensation for their suffering or to receive the return of properties stolen by the Nazis when the iron curtain closed, leaving them at the mercy of new dictatorships. This concurrent resolution recognizes the urgent need for Jewish communal properties to be restored to their rightful owners, to help give these survivors the means to live out their final days in dignity.

Finally, this concurrent resolution speaks to the difficult and complex process underway in many post-Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Some countries have already taken steps to return property or provide compensation for property wrongly confiscated by Communist regimes. I commend those countries for their efforts.

At the same time, I am deeply troubled that some restitution or compensation laws have discriminated against American citizens, people who lost both their property and their citizenship when they sought refuge in this country, fleeing Communist persecution. To exclude these people from efforts to right past wrongs pours salt on an open wound. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this concurrent resolution, and in sending a message that these injustices must be remedied before the passage of time carries the victims beyond our mortal abilities to offer them some recompense for their suffering.

While restoration of property ownership or compensation for its wrongful confiscation can never right the terrible wrongs done to the victims by their Nazi, fascist, and communist oppressors, it can go some way toward balancing the scales. That is what this concurrent resolution is about and why it deserves our support. ●

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### THE FEDERAL POWER ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

#### MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 5412

Mr. NICKLES (for Mr. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 737) to extend the deadlines applicable to certain hydroelectric projects, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning of page 2 line 1 through page 6 line 6, strike section 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and number subsequent section accordingly.

On page 9, following line 17, add the following new section

#### “SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION DEADLINE CERTAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS LOCATED IN ILLINOIS.

“(A) PROJECT NUMBER 3943.—

“(1) Notwithstanding the time limitations of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for project number 3943 (and after reasonable notice), may extend the time required for commencement of construction of such project for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(2) An extension may be granted under paragraph (1) only in accordance with—

“(A) the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements contained in section 13 of the Federal Power Act; and

“(B) the procedures of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under such section.

“(3) This subsection shall take effect for project number 3943 upon the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction of such project issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under section 13 of the Federal Power Act.

“(b) PROJECT NUMBER 3944.—

“(1) Notwithstanding the time limitations of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for FERC project number 3944 (and after reasonable notice), may extend the time required for commencement of construction of such project for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(2) An extension may be granted under paragraph (1) only in accordance with—

“(A) the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements contained in section 13 of the Federal Power Act; and

“(B) the procedures of the Commission under such section.

“(3) This subsection shall take effect for project number 3944 upon the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction of such project issued by the Commission under section 13 of the Federal Power Act.

#### “SEC. 6. REFURBISHMENT AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF A HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY IN MONTANA

“Notwithstanding section 10(e)(1) of the Federal Power Act or any other law requiring payment to the United States of an annual or other charge for the use, occupancy, and enjoyment of land by the holder of a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under Part I of the Federal Power Act, a political subdivision of the State of Montana that accepts the terms and conditions of a license for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project number 1473 in Granite County and Deer Lodge County, Montana—

“(a) shall not be required to pay any such charge with respect to the 5-year period following the date of acceptance; and

“(b) after that 5-year period and for so long as the political subdivision holds the license, shall be required to pay such charges under section 10(e)(1) of the Federal Power Act or any other law for the use, occupancy, and enjoyment of the land covered by the license as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or any other federal agency may assess, not to exceed a total of \$20,000 for any year.”.