

Japanese internment

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House voted Monday to create a special commission to investigate the World War II order that uprooted 120,000 Japanese-Americans from their homes and forced them into internment camps for the duration of the war.

The commission would also investigate the lesser-known relocation of some 1,000 citizens of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, thought to have been in danger of Japanese invasion.

The bill, passed on a 279-109 vote, now goes to the Senate, which has passed a similar measure.

Although the bill authorizes only an investigation of the controversial relocation and internment program, it could open the way for Japanese-Americans to file financial claims against the United States.

A claims program was authorized by Congress in 1948 and resulted in nearly \$38 million in payments for lost property. But that represented only 8½ cents on the dollar, supporters of the new commission said.

A more recent proposal would pay \$15,000 plus \$15 per day to persons who had been interned or to their heirs.

Bridge initiative