

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, DEMOCRAT OF RHODE ISLAND, ON THE
INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO INCREASE PENSIONS OF CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITANTS.
JANUARY 30, 1957

I have today introduced a bill providing for an increase in annuities for persons presently on the retirement rolls of the civil service system. Last year you will recall the Congress approved modest increases in future retirement benefits for present federal employees. I think everyone will agree that something should be done for persons who are now retired from government service.

Retirement benefits for our former federal employees have not kept pace with the accelerated cost of living which has occurred in recent years. We all recognize that retired civil service employees and their survivors have been placed at a great economic disadvantage as a result of the steadily increasing cost of living. In my opinion, something should be done about it and the bill which I have today introduced would bring into line the benefits of present retired personnel with the benefits which will accrue to present employees when they retire.

I personally know and greatly respect many of the Rhode Island people who are presently on the retirement rolls of this government. To my knowledge they have worked long and faithfully in the service of our government. I know that many of them are hard pressed to get by - to maintain a decent standard of living - on their present meager retirement benefits. Certainly they are entitled to every consideration we can possibly give them if for no other reasons than as an acknowledgement of their long and faithful service and the fact that they are now caught in an economic squeeze over which they have no control.