

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M.C., 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR A PAY RAISE FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES. 6/13/57.

I am happy to have this opportunity to appear in support of the bill I introduced, H.R. 4569, which is a companion measure to the bill, H.R. 2474, introduced by the ranking member of this Committee, the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Morrison.

I desire to compliment the Committee on its decision to hold these hearings, which I hope will be conducted as expeditiously as the circumstances will permit. If ever a situation warranted fast action, this is it. To delay longer doing justice to postal employees would, in my judgment, be indefensible.

Stated briefly, postal employees have had but one increase in salary in the last six years and the result is that once again postal employees are tagging along at the end of the wage parade. During those same six years, the wage of people employed in private industry has been increased from 3 to 6 times and many of the agreements provide for further increases in 1957, 1958 and 1959. As an employer, the Postal Service cannot hope to compete for the best people unless it is able to match the wages and conditions of private industry.

That postal employees have earned a substantial increase is readily admitted. The figures which the Department uses to justify its budget estimates indicate a continuing increase in the productivity of employees and this increased productivity



it should be noted, results solely from the work of people and not from machines or labor-saving devices which we hear a lot about but which have not as yet been perfected or installed. To my mind, this increased efficiency of the employees has earned them a substantial salary increase and I think this Committee will agree with that thought.

Because of personal acquaintance with a large number of postal employees in the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island, I know something about these employees and their work. They are first of all a highly skilled group of more than average intelligence and education. Their work requires a degree of skill and diligence far beyond that of the manual laborer and easily comparable to the skill of the highest paid trades people. I think they have every justification for the feeling that they should be paid in accordance with their education and skill. In order to accomplish that purpose I believe the enactment of the bill I have co-sponsored with Mr. Morrison, H.R. 2474 - H.R. 4569, should be enacted and that the enactment of anything less than the provisions of this legislation would be a gross injustice.

I hope that this Committee will move promptly to report this highly desirable legislation to the floor at the earliest possible date and I want to assure you that I shall support and defend this legislation on the floor of the House of Representatives.