

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY 2ND DIST RI

Congressman John E. Fogarty today again introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives his bill providing for the donation of surplus government property to volunteer fire-fighting companies.

In presenting his bill, Fogarty pointed out that thousands of volunteer fire-fighting companies throughout the land are inadequately equipped for their work in the protection of life and property. The Congressman stated: "Tens of thousands of civic minded individuals give unstintingly of their time, effort and resources to maintain these volunteer fire departments. The least we, in Congress, can do is to make available to them the much needed equipment which would otherwise lay unused in federal warehouses."

The Fogarty bill provides that personal property which becomes surplus to federal needs may be donated without cost, other than incidental cost of handling and care, to volunteer fire departments. Typical of such personal property items which would be useful to volunteer companies are water tanks, pumps, fire hoses, tank trucks, rope, axes, tarps, picks, shovels, lanterns, hooks and kitchen and cooking equipment.

Congressman Fogarty has introduced the same bill in previous sessions of Congress. Both in 1958 and in 1960 he succeeded in securing passage of it by the House of Representatives, but in neither year was it acted on by the Senate. He is hopeful that this year favorable action will be taken by both branches of Congress and the bill will be enacted into law.

Congressman Fogarty has been a member of the Volunteer Fire Department of his town of Harmony, Rhode Island for over thirty years. He is a Past President of the Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen's League.