

MR. FOGARTY.

Mr. Speaker. I have today introduced a bill to prohibit the use of the franking privilege by Members of Congress in raids by one State upon the industry of another.

In recent weeks, business firms in my State of Rhode Island have been solicited to relocate in another State with glowing statements as to the benefits which might then be enjoyed. These solicitations have been made through the medium of the United States mails, which in itself is not improper. What is definitely a violation of propriety is that they have been mailed under the franking privilege. This means that the very people who are being assaulted, those who work in our Rhode Island industrial plants, are being forced through their taxes to subsidize the assault being made on them. This, Mr. Speaker, is a misuse of the privilege and one which in my opinion violates the spirit and intent of Congress.

It may be that this incident is not the first attempt through the use of the franking privilege to raid industry of another state. It is, however, the first such attempt against the State of Rhode Island which has come to my attention and I have no intention of letting it pass unnoticed. Specious explanations as to the innocent nature of such approaches leave me cold. The purpose and hoped for end result is plain to see. The intent is to pirate the industrial gains of one State by another and I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress must not permit such circumstances to continue.

It is for this reason that I have decided to introduce legislation preventing such practices from enjoying the economic advantage of the franking privilege.

The bill I have proposed is a simple one. It provides that the privilege

shall not be held or considered to authorize the sending in the mail, as franked mail, of any matter which directly or indirectly advocates, requests, or otherwise solicits in any manner the transfer from one State to another State of any business enterprise or business operation.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no reasonable objection to this bill. I urge the support of all my colleagues for it. Who knows just which State will be the next victim of a similar attack?

It is for this reason that I have drafted an introductory legislation prohibiting such practices from enjoying the economic advantage of the treasury privilege.

The bill I have proposed is a simple one. It provides that the privilege