

REMARKS OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JOHN E. FOGARTY, SECOND
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND ON THE FLOOR OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 6, 1965

Mr. Fogarty,

Mr. Speaker,

Today I am introducing legislation to be known as the Children's Educational Assistance Act of 1965 which would authorize the Commissioner of Education to make textbooks available to students in all elementary and secondary schools. I have long felt the need of providing to all students the equality of educational opportunities since in my opinion the Federal government should recognize its continuing responsibility to assist in the achievement of educational excellence and the elimination of inequalities and disadvantages for every American child.

The selection of these books would be made by school authorities of both public and non-public schools. The texts and other teaching materials would be limited to subject matter such as science, mathematics, history, civics, geography, modern foreign language, remedial reading and English. The authorized funds would be distributed on a system of priorities which would assist those students most in need, those who are handicapped or otherwise disadvantaged. The textbooks would remain government property on loan to the student.

Under the provisions of this bill the Commissioner of Education would provide basic criteria as is necessary to give priority in the use of funds appropriated to achieve the objectives of this Act. Funds would be allotted among the States so that the allotment to each State would be an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount appropriated as the number of students enrolled in grades 1 to 12 of elementary and secondary schools bears to the total number of students enrolled in such school and grades in all of the States.

In the fulfillment of the responsibility of the Federal government by the enactment of this legislation, there will be no distinction or discrimination among the children of this nation in the distribution of educational benefits in order that every child may be enabled to acquire knowledge to the full extent of his or her capacity.