

Address of Mr. Jack Cronin, over Station WEAN, at 7:15 P.M., October 31, 1944  
in behalf of Honorable John E. Fogarty, Representative from Second Congressional  
District.

*Speeches*

Because of my deep interest in the affairs of government, I have  
appealed to the Democratic State Committee to give me the opportunity to  
speak in behalf of Congressman John E. Fogarty. I have been graciously  
accorded this privilege.

I have been motivated in making this appeal, which I concede is  
quite unusual because of the great respect I have for the character, the ex-  
perience and the accomplishments of this able public servant. My association  
with John was unique. I was his teacher and coach of football and had the  
opportunity of guiding him during the formative years of his life. My first  
impressions of him were his gentlemanly behavior and respectful attitude  
towards his superiors, an indication that he was an example of excellent  
parental training in a good American home. On the football field, John did  
not have the weight nor the natural skills that most young athletes were  
endowed with, but he had the fortitude and the courage to overcome these  
obstacles and succeed. In our great American game he learned that teamwork  
was of paramount importance and that the rules of fair play must never be  
violated. I am positive that Congressman Fogarty has observed these principles  
since the day he entered our national legislature and will continue to  
observe them.

We, as teachers in our great American educational system, strive  
for neither wealth nor fame and our greatest reward is the success of those we  
teach and particularly the success of those who fight for principles we hold  
dear and consistent with the pattern of our democracy. Before being elected

to the House of Representatives, Congressman Fogarty dedicated his efforts to the cause of the working man and working woman and rose to prominence in fighting for the precept that the worker is entitled both by the laws of God and man to a fair share of the profits of those things he produces in order that he may raise his family according to the concepts of human dignity. Therefore, he entered the House of Representatives with a philosophy of government based upon the noble cause of liberalism. He has not wavered in his efforts towards aiding the cause of the worker. He is not a politician who changes his position with every shift of public opinion, but he is a true representative of the people of his state and district.

His nomination to Congress by the Democratic Party in 1940 was at once a tribute to the man himself, and to his Party for its recognition of his ability and its desire to send to our National Government a strong and honest representative.

Soon after Congressman Fogarty took his oath of office he was given his committee assignments. Perhaps because of his eagerness for work, he was assigned to four Committees. They were, Patents, in which work he was occupied with legislation affecting Copy-rights and Patents. It was here he gained his first insight into the International Operation of Cartels, and the control over American production which has been exercised by great International enterprises. Many of the patents upon which the Nation depended for vital production, were controlled by Companies, or agents of Companies, which were later to become our enemies in battle.

Another Committee assignment was to the House Committee on Claims - here are examined and considered all Private Bills in the Nature of claims against the Federal Government. His work on this committee brought him the especial commendation of the Chairman of the Committee, the Honorable Dan McGehee of Mississippi.

Another Committee Assignment was that of Enrolled Bills, having to do with the final steps in the operation of legislation becoming law after its endorsement by the Chief Executive.

One Committee Assignment was to the House Committee of Territories, and it was through the functions of this committee the Congressman developed his intense interest in Pacific Affairs. Through the work of the Committee on Territories, the Congressman gained a new insight into the problems affecting Hawaii, the Phillipines, Guam and the other outposts of our Republic in the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean.

Being an avid reader, he obtained everything he could find on this subject with the result that his knowledge of conditions in that area has brought him the respect of his colleagues in Congress. One of his intimate advisors at the time was Honorable Michael Elizalde, Resident Commissioner of the Phillipines during the Administration of the late Manuel Quezon. A friendship was developed between the two men which still exists.

As a result of our Congressman's interest in this subject, he sought, after his re-election in 1942, assignment to the House Committee on Naval Affairs. The Leaders of his Party nominated him for membership on this all-important Committee and he was elected thereto by the House of Representatives. He was welcomed to the Committee by Republicans and Democrats alike and in his service on that Committee he has won the special praise of the Chairman, the Honorable Carl Vinson, as well as receiving expressions of gratitude from the Commander-in-Chief.

During the two years our Congressman has served on the Naval Affairs Committee, our Navy has grown to incomparable size. It is presently the most powerful Navy afloat, and I believe actually exceeds in size the combined fleets of all other Nations.

Naturally, credit for this is not due our Congressman. I don't wish

to give the impression I think so. However, it is readily apparent that our Congressman did play some small part in the accomplishment of this great objective.

As part of his duties with this Committee he has made several trips across the Country. He has been to the Pacific on at least two occasions and in conjunction with other committee members on a special sub-committee held investigations in every principal City on the West Coast, in order to remove every possible hindrance to the tremendous expansion program which the Navy had launched at that time. The work of this sub-committee was vital as well to the Navy itself, and to the parents of the boys in our Navy, as it was to the men and women who labored in the shipyards, the Naval stations, the air-fields and weather stations which serve our great Navy.

His duties took him into the deep South and his efforts assisted in overcoming serious obstacles in the way of the ship-building program. He spent many weeks in Norfolk, Virginia, on assignment of the Naval Affairs Committee, and, again with the members of the special sub-committee visited all the Naval establishments in Rhode Island. His report on this area will be remembered as complete and intelligent. His recommendations were carried out, in practically every instance, and the Navy, and the people of our State have benefited thereby.

He has always been a particular friend of the Shipyard in Providence and it will be recalled he was championing the cause of the Shipyard when it wasn't exactly popular to do that.

His report on conditions at the Shipyard will be recalled, particularly, in connection with the present emphasis on production of the Combat-cargo vessels. At that time the Congressman's report was severely criticized and an unofficial report to the effect that the Shipyard was over-manned was accepted as the genuine authority.

Every report derogatory of the shipyard has been run to earth by our Congressman and those responsible, wherever possible, have been dealt with firmly.

Being a man with confidence in his fellow Americans, and possessing courage to face the future unafraid, our Congressman is determined that there can be work for the Shipyard in the post-war economic life of the Nation. As a repair station for merchant vessels in the Maritime Trade, the Yard will be ideal. It is equipped to handle all types of cargo vessels and can provide completely safe anchorage for vessels awaiting repairs.

As an adjunct of expanded Naval operations in the North Atlantic area the facilities offered by our Shipyard are unbeatable, and it is entirely reasonable to believe the Navy will have a great deal of use for our Yard. For many decades there has been insistence upon the need of a dry-dock in Narragansett Bay for Navy Vessels. We now have this facility, in actual operation, plus all manner of equipment for servicing just about all types of Naval Vessels below Battleships, Carriers and Cruisers.

During the last session of Congress we all know of the concerted effort which was expended in the hope of destroying the effectiveness of the regulations designed to keep prices and rents in line. In the midst of this drive by reactionary forces, our Congressman aligned himself with the special committee for the Protection of the Consumer. This group came to be known as "The Fighting Sixty Congressmen". To them is due in large measure the success of the fight which prevented emasculation of the laws which have prevented run-away inflation.

In order to plan intelligently for the period which will follow the end of hostilities and to be prepared adequately for what one columnist has aptly termed "The Outbreak of Peace", the House of Representatives created a special bipartisan committee known as the Special Committee on Post War Economic

Policy and Planning. Our Congressman was elected to membership on this committee in recognition of his deep concern with the problem of providing jobs after the war boom has subsided. He was made a member of the sub-committee to plan legislation covering Public Works.

These Committee assignments have involved a tremendous amount of work. They are little heard of in the every-day discussion of governmental operations, but, as we are all aware upon a moment's consideration, most of that actual work of Congress is done by its committees.

In spite of the burden of carrying this load of extra duties, Congressman Fogarty has always been available to his constituents who found themselves in need of his services. There are hundreds of persons in his district, from all walks of life -- professional men, farmers, businessmen, and white collar workers and laborers who found in Congressman Fogarty a sympathetic counselor and an aggressive champion. No difficulty has been too great -- no problem has been too insignificant -- to warrant and receive his immediate and wholehearted attention. Whenever the interests of Rhode Islanders were concerned, the Congressman proved himself a willing and able fighter for those interests before Congress and before Governmental agencies.

In this respect John Fogarty has brought to the office of Congressman a new and higher standard of service.

Because of the experience Congressman Fogarty has gained through his service in the National Government -- because of the sincerity and zeal with which he has discharged the responsibilities of his office, it is my firm conviction that we cannot afford to lose him in this critical hour.

The years ahead -- even the months immediately before us -- are far from being clear and definite. The path which our Nation is to travel is beset by many difficulties, and those difficulties actually involve, vitally, the life of every one of us. Our manner of proceeding, in all sincerity, may effect our

children for many generations.

It concerns us greatly that we have in Congress a man who is truly representative of all the people, and one who will serve the people first -- can rise above mere party considerations -- one whose faith in his fellow man encourages him to insist that the people be told the whole truth in all considerations.

There is one epithet that is being hurled abroad a great deal, under the stress of the present political campaign. It is the word "communist". I don't believe those who use this expression in referring to Democratic candidates in Rhode Island are serious in their expressions of concern on this score. I can't bring myself to believe such an accusation is seriously received by those who hear it. At any rate, using the word "communist" in connection with John Fogarty, if it is seriously intended, is worse than ridiculous.

There are some who cause me much concern by their oft-repeated expression of doubt that we can have a secure period of peace after this terrible conflict has been brought to a victorious end. I worry because they term such hope, mere idealism. I don't think it is -- and I respect Congressman Fogarty for his conviction that it is not just idealism -- but is in fact enlightened self-interest.

By team work I honestly believe we can have an unlimited peaceful and prosperous era. We are the greatest among the Nations of the World. Peace can be just about what we make it.

With the will of our people -- with a firm belief in the achievement of our goal fixed firmly in the heart of each American -- we can have what we pray for. We must be guided by honesty and reason, or we shall discourage the will of the American people.

We cannot proceed with hatred and passion - along that road lies the same disillusionment and discouragement that followed the last attempt to establish a permanent peace. Then once more we shall hear over the radio, and in the privacy of our own homes: "Never again - Never again - Never again! We are completely disillusioned. We saw the supposedly high idealism of the allied cause betrayed by the cynical peacemakers.....Nothing but sorrow and tragedy, the war brought; Nobody gained; everybody lost. Never again - Never again - Never again."

It takes much less blood, sweat and tears to insure peace than to fight another World War for another lost peace.