

Address by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC, 2nd Rhode Island District, delivered on the Floor of the House, December 5, 1945, relative to his proposal that the Island of Rhode Island is the ideal spot for the permanent home of the United Nations Organization.

There has been a great deal of discussion about a site for the permanent home for the United Nations Organization. The Committee which will recommend a definite site is now meeting in London. It is not yet known for a certainty that the permanent home of this great hope of mankind will be located in the United States. However, a national publication in which many of us have a great deal of confidence, on Monday of this week, expressed the belief that the committee would recommend that the permanent home of the United Nations Organization be located on the Eastern Coast of the United States. This expression of opinion leads me to tell you about the ideal spot for locating this great international organization.

I am aware of the efforts being made by officials of Boston, Philadelphia and other cities to bring the headquarters of the United Nations Organization to the United States. I know these cities are sincere in their offers to provide a home for the great organization whose purpose is permanent peace among all men. I am confident that all these cities, although fervent in their hope that they will be permitted to provide a haven for UNO, are more concerned with providing for this great institution the best that is available. For that reason I suggest that it would be far more purposeful of Boston, Philadelphia and the other cities on the Eastern Seaboard if the officials of these cities would lend their support to the suggestion which I have already made - that the permanent home of the United Nations Organization be located on the "Isle of Peace".

The very name of this beautiful isle suggests that here mankind's great hope could find the atmosphere in which to do its best work. The

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organization would commence its deliberations under the most magnificent of auspices. Nature and history combine to provide an enthusiasm which will help in great measure to enable the representatives of peoples all over the world to work out a formula that will provide for us, for our children and our children's children, an era of peace and prosperity, an era marked by the cooperation of all peoples, an era which will prove that it is possible for man to live with his brother - an era which will witness the outlawing of armed aggression as an instrument of National policy.

Such an era is a lot to expect. It sounds like a dream of utopia. It can be had if we are willing to strive hard enough to achieve it. The success or failure of our efforts in that respect will be determined in a large measure by the men and women who will come here to represent the various peoples of the earth when the United Nations Organization has become a real fact - when it is set up and operating in the home which it is to have for its deliberations.

Because there is to be so great a reliance on the deliberations of these National Representatives, it is no more than fitting that we provide for their work the very best we have to offer.

For this reason I ask your support of my suggestion that the permanent home of the UNO be established on the "Isle of Peace". Here there is all the beauty of mother nature coupled with historical tradition which will fortify any man in his fight for real democracy. Taking up arms for freedom long before 1776, the early settlers of the "Isle of Peace" struck the blows which echoed throughout the colonies and resulted in the later establishment of the Continental Congress. Bloody battles were fought on this "Isle of Peace" - bloody battles which foretold the courage and

bravery of the Minute-men of Cambridge and their brothers throughout the colonies in America's first fight for freedom and democracy.

The "Isle of Peace" was early recognized as a haven for the members of all religion. First visited by the Vikings who left their monuments which still stand as evidence of this island's relations with the rest of the world, the "Isle of Peace" has provided refuge for the oppressed of many lands.

Her lush green fields inviting rest and recreation - the blue waters of the Atlantic providing at once the soothing tranquility of the sea and a challenge to all men brave enough to go down to the sea and fight her storms, the "Isle of Peace" possesses beauty to be found nowhere else in America.

Here there are miles of ocean front where the mighty - and sometimes violent Atlantic - batters at the granite cliffs which serve as a shield along part of Newport's shoreline. Here are deep, quiet harbors where vessels - from cabin cruisers to the largest Carrier or Battleship afloat can find a safe anchorage.

Here are the most beautiful beaches on the Eastern Shore to provide relaxation and surcease from the cares of the day. Here is the Cliff Walk, extending for ten miles along the very edge of the sea. Here are mile after mile of beautiful country lanes and roads inviting every visitor to explore the magnificent features of an island which can't be duplicated anywhere in the world.

This beautiful land was called the Isle of Aquidneck by the Narragansett Indians. Its name means Peace. By early English navigators, overcome by its beauty, it was called the Island of Rhodes and from this island the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations takes its name.

The first spot in the New World to pronounce and maintain Religious Liberty, Rhode Island was also the first spot in the New World to promulgate a Bill of Rights protecting individual liberty. As early as 1663 Rhode Island had obtained a Charter, unique in the then known world, which provided as its purpose "that a most flourishing civil state might live and best be maintained with full liberty in religious concerns."

Here is a background of Freedom and Democracy which will serve as a splendid foundation upon which to build the future peace and security of the Nations of this world. Here is the ideal environment wherein men and women dedicated to peace can work out the many and varied problems which will beset their paths. With a tradition rich in culture the Island of Rhode Island offers to the United Nations Organization its best hope for complete success.

Permit me to explain very briefly why I believe this most beautiful spot is ideal for this purpose.

We can all agree that our United States is the ideal location. Then why the Island of Rhode Island any more than another place? In brief, because the Island of Rhode Island offers every facility which can be provided by other cities and areas in the Country - and the Island of Rhode Island has none of the disadvantages under which these other locations must suffer.

A short ride by automobile, boat, train or plane from all the principal civic centres on the Eastern Coast and the Middle West - this beautiful island can provide the maximum of political and mercantile contacts, all manner of educational facilities, every form of entertainment, and yet, it provides within itself the optimum of peace and tranquility. Its climate has been characterized by Doctor Ellsworth Huntington of Yale

as the best in the United States. The Boston Herald termed it better than California or the Riviera and Dr. William C. Rives of Washington, in 1910, referred to the remarkable natural healthfulness of Newport's climate.

Newport has always been a great Naval Base. It has been proposed as the summer Capitol of the United States. Scarcely any international figure has come to our country who has not enjoyed the cool breezes wafted in off the Atlantic to cool the hills and fields of Newport. It has been for several generations the summer playground of the United States. In the 3 winter months of the year the average temperature is not below 32 degrees.

Millions have been spent in erecting elaborate estates. These mansions which contain from 18 to 113 rooms are now available to the United Nations Organization for offices, libraries or living quarters. Several have already been tendered to the Executive Committee at London. In addition there are acres and acres of land available for new buildings. Hence there will be no need for delay while buildings are erected, while facilities are installed. In Newport, Rhode Island, the United Nations Organization will find a progressive community, proud of its history, conscious of its obligations as host to this great international organization. There will be nothing lacking in Newport's endeavor to accommodate the men and women from all the great Nations of the world. These representatives of other lands will find in Newport the exemplification of everything grand, everything fine. In short they will find the ideal American city. They will learn at a glance why we Americans are so proud of our homeland.

I ask your assistance. We want the United Nations Organization in my Rhode Island. If this organization is to come to the United States I think you will want it housed in the finest spot in America. I am sure you would not want the organization encumbered and inconvenienced by all

the handicaps it will find in the big cities - cities which lack adequate office space, adequate housing, adequate educational facilities, adequate recreational facilities even to care properly for their present populations. It is my sincere belief that you would prefer Newport for the United Nations Organization. We want each of you to come to Rhode Island. I hope you can come to our beautiful state to see what we have to offer to the United Nations Organization. I hope you will see this great International Organization in operation in our State, then I know you will agree with the late Richard Washburn Child who said of Newport: "Places have flavor. Some have a past. Some give forth a sense of permanence and peace - of creative yesterdays and a creative future. Some make life personal, so that all human beings are invested with an absorbing aliveness; in contrast to those where modern life has made cardboard figures of humanity. Newport is a place where persons are persons 'on their own'.

"The island geography and the Gulf Stream make the climate like Bermuda. Autumn lingers deliciously until the New Year's egg-nog. We have the eternally whimsical sea and the over-luxuriant land. We sail, we fish, we swim, we play tennis. Folks drop in for tea, and the affairs of the nation are discussed. Newport is so constantly and intimately in touch, through brains, American and foreign, with the world! And yet we do see the sky, and the mist, the rain, the garden, the rainbow and the sunset."