- Radio speech by Congressman John E. Fogarty, 2nd District of Rhode Island -
October 26, 1948, 10:12 to 10:18 P.M. - ~~XXXXXX~~ 6 minute tie-in on Station WFCI
One hour program sponsored by Af of L League for Political Action.

Coming as I do from the ranks of Labor and having worked so closely, as a Member of Congress for the past eight years, in the interest of the working people of this State and Nation, it pleases me greatly to cooperate with Labor's League in bringing to you the real issues involved in the coming election.

And, believe me, the issues are real. Not in the past sixteen years has the distinction between the parties been so clear and pointed. As evidence of this is the avowed Republican intention of returning to the "good old days" of the twenties and early thirties. The era of plenty - but not for the working man. The days of rule by the vested interests through their powerful Washington lobbies. The time when big business was not bothered by such 'annoyances' as collective bargaining, unemployment compensation, mandatory minimum wages, aid to dependent children and the multitude of other beneficial laws which came into being during the Democratic administrations that followed.

I personally cannot go along with that philosophy and I am sure that no working man nor anyone who labors for his living could accept it. We cannot permit a return to the type of thinking which plunged our country into the last terrible depression and caused such widespread misery and suffering.

We must insist on a continuance of legislating for all the people and not just the privileged few - a trend which was broken by the past Eightieth Congress with its sweeping program of reaction.

That is the Congress which refused to pass a bill for Aid to Education. Which objected to Slum Clearance and Public Housing and instead brought forth a bill to guarantee the banker against loss on mortgages -- and yet -- had the audacity to present it as the answer-the cure all - for America's housing shortage. Which labored long and loudly to produce a tax reduction bill which saved thousands

for persons in the higher income brackets but pennies for the wage earners. Which completely ignored the problem of bhigh prices and suggested by its inaction that Nature should be permitted to take its course - regardless of the anguish and deprivation which must result.

The Congress which promulgated the infamous Taft-Hartley law. The law so widely publicized as freeing the worker from the bonds of slavery imposed on him by his villainous labor leaders - but which, in effect, actually tightened the shackles on both him and his union to a degree which can eventually threaten their very existence. The Congress which refused to consider the extension of Social Security to persons not now entitled to its benefits - but rather cut three quarters of a million people from its coverage. The Congress which slashed the appropriations for the Department of Labor - by as much as forty per cent in some instances - to a point where its services and efficiency have been drastically impaired. In fact, ladies and gentlemen, a Congress which took seeming delight in imposing its despotic will on the working people of America on every matter which came before it.

That is the record of the Eightieth Congress which is today being so highly praised by the Republican party throughout the country. I think that you will agree with me that it must be changed - that for the welfare of the country we cannot permit it to continue. And it can be changed.

The time for action is now. There is still a week in which every working person can accept his responsibility to work in the interest of himself and for his family's welfare. If every such person will bring that record home to his family - spread it among his friends - see to it that the real issues are known and understood - then, I am sure, the people of the State of Rhode Island will exercise their franchise next week in an overwhelming protest agsinst the forces of reaction as represented by the Republican candidates.