

Hecks 1954

5/12/54

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES REGARDING THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY AT KINGS POINT, NEW YORK.

I have received a number of communications from the people of Rhode Island urging that I strongly protest to this Committee any proposal to close the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N. Y. It has long been my understanding that the United States Merchant Marine has been in continuous need of capable, qualified officers. During World War II, the lack of proper officers for our merchant ships was a great handicap. In my opinion, the world situation has not been sufficiently corrected to suppose that the Merchant Marine may not be called on again to transport supplies and men to locations where they might be needed in a hurry.

The Academy at King's Point has established an outstanding record in the training of merchant officers. It would, I believe, be a grave error and a disservice to our country to reduce its effective operation. I sincerely hope that the Academy will be encouraged in its development of outstanding officers who are so needed today and may be even more in demand in the future. May I urge this Committee to take action to assure that King's Point Academy continues its effective work.