

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING DEBATE ON HR 6766, PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATION BILL, JUNE 16, 1955.

MR. FOGARTY.

Mr. Chairman. Many of my colleagues have asked me for an explanation of just what the Fogarty amendment for hurricane protection does. Actually, it allocates one million dollars to the Army Engineers for a survey of our eastern coastal area to determine exactly what can be done to prevent future hurricane damage.

--- As you know, authorization for such a survey was secured on June 2 when the House graciously permitted me to introduce a bill under unanimous consideration. This House then passed the bill, which had previously been approved by the Senate, and I am advised that it was signed by the President yesterday.

--- During the debate on the authorization bill, I pointed out to the Members the severe damage in both life and property which had resulted from the recurrent hurricanes of last year alone. Many of you were surprised to learn that the 1954 hurricanes together caused about \$1 billion of property damage - yes, \$1,000 million of property damage - and in addition, the loss of about 850 lives. As a nation we cannot afford to permit the loss, every few years, of a billion dollars in wealth - not to mention human life - when for a fraction of that amount the greater part of the loss could be prevented. For this is a national problem. All areas of our country will benefit from the knowledge gained through the Army Engineers survey provided for in my amendment. The broad scale planning needed for meeting this problem is definitely a federal one and one which is in the interest of all the country. Delay cannot be countenanced.

--- The \$1 million appropriation now before us, referred to as the Fogarty amendment, would permit the Engineers to start their work immediately after July 1 of this year. The sooner such action is taken the sooner will we have some hope of counteracting and remedying the catastrophic situation with which our coastal

states have regularly been faced in recent years.

From discussion with officials of the Army Engineers I am advised that the survey which they would undertake - should my amendment be accepted - would closely approach the following pattern.

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