

153  
Speeches

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF  
RHODE ISLAND, UPON INTRODUCTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF A BILL TO PERMIT THE ADMISSION OF ELDERLY PERSONS TO  
FEDERALLY ASSISTED LOW-RENT HOUSING PROJECTS. 2/24/55.

I have today introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which would permit the admission of elderly single persons, widows or widowers to federally assisted low-rent housing projects. Under present law, such admission is now limited to families only. There is no doubt in my mind as to the growing need for a change in the restrictive provision of the law and it is for this reason that I have submitted the proposed legislation.

Many elderly persons are now living in dilapidated houses. Others have been left to take over their family homes, which are oversized and impossible to care for or maintain. The commercial market provides practically no opportunity for them to secure adequate housing. Of necessity, this is true because their income is limited, coming principally from meager savings, inadequate pensions, or social security benefits. Landlords are doubtful about renting to them for fear that they may become ill and unable to pay their rent. As a result, these elderly persons are, too often, forced to take fringe housing which in many cases is hardly habitable.

The problem of housing aged single persons in our population is a very disturbing one and is becoming increasingly so. Older

people need low-rental housing - decent shelter in pleasant surroundings. The bill which I have introduced envisions such housing for our older citizens within their financial means. I sincerely hope that the Congress speedily enacts it into law.

COPY