SPEECH OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M.C., 2ND DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, AT MIRIAM HOSPITAL ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, LEDGEMONT COUNTRY CLUB, FEBRUARY 5, 1956.

Miriam Hospital is a hospital which is one of the

finest examples of man's regard for his fellow man. It is

modern in design. Its service facilities and equipment

represent the best that can be acquired, The entire staff

is well trained; they possess years of experience and are

dedicated to helping others. The hospital came into being

through the efforts and contiributions of many of our fellow

townsmen here in Providence and yet we needed the assistance



this magnificent and greatly needed institution.

The modern hospital today stands as symbolic of the

contributions of the medical and social scientists in the area of

medical care. At the hospital will be found the wonder drugs

like the antibiotics and sulfonamides; apparatus for oxygen

therapy, diathermy and hydro threapy; instruments for diagnostic

purposes such as the x-ray; the clinical laboratory with its wide range of delicate and complicated equipment. There are many other tangible and easily recognized medical instruments. These are all important but underlying their use and determining

their effectiveness is the personality, skill, devotion and will-

ingness of the staff members to go all out for the patient

medically, socially and at times economically. Then, too, supporting

all this is the hospital's Board of Governors who reflect the

community and its wishes for the hospital amongst them. So our

hospital then becomes the grouped defense we have against disease



and catastrophe due to illness and disablement.

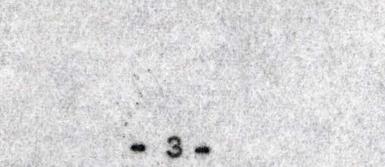
Financial aid has come to Rhode Island, to Providence,

to other communities, and specifically here to Miriam Hospital

through the Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946 which is

popularly known as the Hill-Burton Act. The Director of Health,

Rhode Island Department of Health, has the responsibility of



administering this program of matched Federal and local

community funds for the construction of hospitals and health

facilities in Rhode Island.

I have been privileged in representing the people of

Rhode Island in Congress, to serve on the Committees of the

House of Representatives which are concerned with the health

affairs of our Nation, and, with the Federal funds to be appro-

priated for health programs. I can assure you it is a very

satisfying experience to see our programs in the Health Field

being recognized for their true worth, separated from impediments



and distractions, and emerging as bulwarks of our total national

security during these trying times of international stresses and

strains.

The Hill-Burton Program has provided a stimulus to commu-

nities to help them acquire needed hospitals and health facilities.

The local communities have contributed about two-thirds while the

Federal funds account for about one-third of this total program.

- 4 -

Over 2600 projects have been approved and more than 1900

have been built in an eight year period and are now serving

their communities.

Rhode Island has received a total of over \$3,600,000.

This Federal money has been matched with \$16,700,949 of sponsors'

money in 13 projects and has added 552 hospital beds and other

additional hospital service facilities.

Miriam Hospital has received the largest grant to date in

Rhode Island. An amount of over \$600,000 in Federal funds was

matched by about \$1,700,000 in sponsors' funds. It was money

well spent. Miriam Hospital is recognized as an outstanding medi-

cal care facility, locally and nationally. The attitude of the

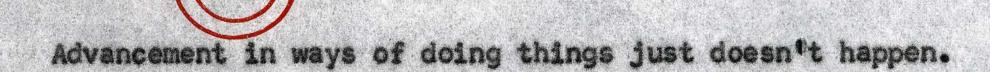
medical staff and their associates in being always alert to

new and better methods of patient care has resulted in the

establishment and use of a new arterio-catheterization clinic and

diagnostic heart service. Here at Miriam Hospital alone of all the

• 5 • hospitals in Rhode Island can these services of complete evaluation and pre-surgical diagnostic procedures be acquired for those patients suffering from these types of heart disease and disorder. I have been told that one adult and one child have been sent on to the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colorado, for surgical repair of the heart defects. This is in reality rehabilitation of the highest order. Those of you responsible must be very proud and yet I know as health workers you regard it as your job. You should know that I and many others are proud of you.



Better methods of the care of patients can only come about

following research. Research of any type requires many hours of

work, many hours of thinking, and money. Last year the Congress

recognizing the great and urgent need for better and more effect-

ive hospital services made one million two hundred thousand dollars

available to the U.S. Public Health Service for grants for

research in this important field. I support this type of research to the fullest. The ever-rising costs of patient care demand that more effective utilization of our hospitals and better and more efficient programs of patient care be developed. We must find ways for hospital administration and professional services to keep pace with the demands of advancing medical care. It can only be done through research. The many fine results being achieved through the research programs of the National Institutes of Health of the U. S. Public Health Sprvice in the fields of cancer, heart



disease, mental illness, neurological disease and blindness,

nutritional disorders, dental diseases, and microbiology have

far reaching impacts on the lives of all of us. I regard it

as not only my duty but an honor to support these research

programs. It is with considerable pride that I can report to you

that I have consistently striven to increase the funds appro-

priated for research in health matters. The human life is a

precious thing to me. We must conserve it. To be able to be here tonight and share with you this memorable occasion in the infancy period of the new Miriam Hospital builds up in me a great desire to come back again at that time in the future when the medical marvels of today are commonplace procedures; and, when your sons and daughters are carrying on in the paths of their parents , but due to all our efforts, are more effectively serving those in need.

• 7 •

##