

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 contributions of many of our fellow townsmen here in Providence and yet we needed the assistance of our fellow Americans from all over this country to acquire 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 therapy; 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 willingness 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 appropriated 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 communities 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.

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 medical 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

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.

Advancement in ways of doing things just doesn't happen.

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 effective 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 Service 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 appropriated 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.

