

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, ON INTRODUCTION IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TO VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTING ORGANIZATIONS. JUNE 5, 1957.

Congressman John F. Fogarty today introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a bill to permit the donation of surplus federal property to volunteer fire-fighting organizations. His bill would amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to provide that any incorporated or unincorporated volunteer fire department, fire company or similar fire-fighting organization would be eligible to receive such surplus goods.

Fogarty stated that the need for legislation of this type had been brought to his attention by the Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen's League, an organization with which the Congressman has been actively associated for many years having served as its President shortly before he came to Congress. "From personal experience I know the continuing problem of securing adequate equipment faced by all volunteer fire companies," said Fogarty. "It seems to me that no better use could be made of supplies and equipment which have been declared surplus to the executive agencies than to donate them to those protectors of life and property - our volunteer fire-fighting organizations.

The Congressman announced that his bill had been referred to the Committee on Government Operations. "I plan to confer with the members of this Committee," said Fogarty, "and urge that they take quick action to report a favorable bill to the House of Representatives with no undue delay."