

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, DEMOCRAT OF RHODE ISLAND,
ON H.RES. 27, PROVIDING FOR THE UNIFICATION OF IRELAND.

It has been my distinct privilege on the first day of this the 85th Congress to again introduce in the U.S. House of Representatives a resolution providing for the unification of all Ireland. To me the basic issue underlying the problem has always reduced itself to a simple matter of justice.

Partition is the denial of the right of self-determination. It is a refusal to accept the majority will of a people in choosing the government they, themselves, desire. I believe that the essence of democracy lies in the right of a people to freely determine how they are to be governed. I'm convinced that all Americans believe in the same principles and I'm further convinced that we should promulgate them to the world at large.

This is the eighth year in which I have had my resolution before the Congress. Each year I've hoped that affirmative action would be taken and that the Congress of the United States would proudly stand and declare that we, in America, practise what we preach - that we believe in the principles under which we live. It is with this thought in mind that I have again introduced the resolution. And it is with a fervent prayer that I hope that the 85th Congress will approve the resolution and thereby give evidence to the world that we not only speak in the cause of justice and freedom when it serves our own ends but that we have the courage to voice our convictions for a small and exploited country.

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