

Statements  
Relinquished  
Speeches - 1957

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M.C., 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, FOR INCLUSION IN HEARINGS BEFORE THE ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX DIVISION OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT. AUGUST 27, 1957

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Sir:

I have received a considerable volume of mail in which constituents have expressed strong opposition to changes in regulations which have been proposed by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service for the enforcement of the Federal Firearms Act. Notice of these proposed changes was published in the Federal Register for May 3, 1957 and July 10, 1957. I cannot help but feel that revised sections 177.50, 177.51, 177.52, 177.54, and 177.55 would, if put into effect, drastically penalize law-abiding citizens, dealers, and manufacturers, while failing utterly to deter the criminal element.

Under my personal direction, I have had this entire matter examined because of the intelligent arguments against revision which have been raised by many of my constituents. This study brought to my attention hearings on this very problem which were held during the 74th Congress. I am satisfied that the Congress at that time conducted a most thorough exploration of the entire subject matter.

In light of these previous hearings, and in view of the fact that the proposed revisions are of substantial magnitude, it is my firm conviction that this is a subject for Congressional inquiry.

I shall be most happy to cooperate in any study which the Congress shall make. I trust that the Internal Revenue Service will give proper consideration to these views to the end that whatever further controls are adopted will have the specific Congressional sanction which will merit the cooperation of all law-abiding citizens.

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