

Congressman John E. Fogarty today held a conference here on the problem of rising unemployment in the northern section of Rhode Island. Attending the conference were all the members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation and the following officials of the executive branch of the government:

Asst. Secy of Labor, Rocco Siciliano
Victor Roterus, Chief of the Office of Area Development of Dept.
of Commerce
Donald A. Hipkins, Deputy Administrator for Procurement and
Technical Assistance of the Small Business Admin.
Leonard Etheridge, Office of the Asst. Secy. of Defense for
Supply and Logistics
Robert Goodwin, Director of Bureau of Employment Security
Dewey Costas, Deputy Director of Bureau of Employment Security
Thomas H. Bride, Jr., Director, R.I. Dept. of Employment Security

Fogarty detailed the economic background of the area and stated that the recently accelerated rate of unemployment coupled with several new plant closings made it imperative that the federal government take every possible action to provide every assistance it can. After a thorough discussion it was decided that each official of the agencies present would draft a listing of the various forms of federal help which they could offer to the northern Rhode Island region. These suggestions, according to Fogarty, will then be combined into an overall breakdown of the types of aid available.

"Upon receiving this material," Fogarty announced, "I will make arrangements to have these federal representatives come to Rhode Island for a meeting with State and local interested persons. At that time full exploration can be made by our local people of the forms of assistance best suited to their particular areas which with local cooperation could be put into effect."

Congressman Fogarty expressed the hope that the end result of these meetings would be to encourage spirited action on the part of the local communities and an eventual improvement in the employment picture.

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