

Congressman John E. Fogarty has lodged a strong protest with the Secretary of the Navy against the proposed cutback in personnel at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Newport, R.I.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary today, Congressman Fogarty charged that he could not accept the Navy's ~~explanation~~ statement that none of the services presently rendered at the Hospital would be curtailed as a result of the reduction in force. "It is quite obvious to me," said Fogarty, "that the reduced workforce which itself will be on short time cannot conceivably continue to operate the Hospital at a level of efficiency." "It will seriously and adversely affect the quality of a very essential service - the hospital care of our military and civilian personnel who have become injured or ill in the service of their government."

Fogarty stated that in addition to the layoff of some 27 employees the Hospital has been ordered to make up over 2,000 man-days by the enforced furloughs of the remaining employees. "It takes no great imagination," said Fogarty, "to see what is going to happen to hospital care with a reduced staff and even that staff on short time.

Congressman Fogarty urged the Secretary of the Navy to personally review the situation at the Newport Hospital and take immediate action to withdraw the pending reduction in force notice.

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