

SPEECH OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M. C. 2ND DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND ON WEAN-RADIO, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1958 AT 10:05 A.M.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

In a talk which I gave through the facilities of this station a week ago, I brought to your attention some of the many benefits that have come to the people of the 2nd Congressional District, and Rhode Islanders in general, as a result of my successful fight against the efforts of the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration to cut essential funds for the health and welfare of the vast majority of our citizens. I also asked you to consider the part I played in over-coming the short-sighted Republican opposition to the rivers and harbors legislation which will bring the long-needed hurricane barriers to Narragansett Bay. If the Republican policy of false economy at the expense of the many, and special interest legislation for the benefit of the few, had defeated that measure, projects totalling \$25 million and an estimated 5,000 jobs would have been kept from the people of Rhode Island.

Certainly, it is a false idea of economy which wilfully disregards the conservation and rightful use of the human and material resources represented by the great cities in which two-thirds of the people of America live and work. Yet, the same Administration cries of "Waste"

which greeted the Rivers and Harbors Bill were raised this year to defeat the Democratic Housing Bill, with its extensive provisions for urban-renewal projects. That bill I supported, together with 90 per cent of the Democratic members of the House. It failed of passage by six votes, with 63 per cent of the House Republicans in opposition to its enactment. During the debate, I pointed out that the failure to enact effective housing legislation by the 85th Congress would be a severe blow to the redevelopment programs in many of our cities and a despairing admission that the richest nation on earth is incapable of overcoming the blight and slum conditions that are sapping the human and economic resources of so many of our cities. Only recently the U. S. Conference of Mayors urgently called for the help of the federal government in this matter, for, as I pointed out in the House, cities are, among the various levels of government, least able to rely upon their own limited financial capacity and tax resources in facing the problem of redevelopment.

Now the bad effects of the Republican drive to defeat and stall redevelopment legislation in 1958 are being felt right here in Provi-

dence. And they will continue to be felt, unless a stronger Democratic majority is elected to Congress by the American people in November. As the Evening Bulletin reported on September 26th, the newly imposed Administration ceiling on annual federal grants for urban-renewal means that Providence's active redevelopment program will be slowed down almost to a standstill. The time required to finish the present top priority slum clearance projects will at least be doubled. You don't have to look far for the cause of this backward step. When the Administration killed the 1958 major Housing Bill, such cutbacks and crippling limitations were inevitable. In fact, the whole Eisenhower-Nixon policy with respect to urban redevelopment can be described as one of "sag and drag." While some 7 million dilapidated urban structures continue to sag, the Administration continues to drag its feet. In 1956 Congress authorized 70,000 public housing units, but as of June 1958, only 9,000 had been contracted for and a mere 200 were actually under construction. Higher interest rates under the Republican policy of favoring moneylenders have virtually closed the doors to private home ownership

to the 5 million families with incomes of between \$5,000 and \$7,000 a year, who, under lower interest rates, might otherwise have their own new homes without undue hardship. If I am re-elected, I will continue the fight to remedy this unfair discrimination. In India, we are told, the elephant does a great deal of construction work, but in the United States the Republican elephant seems more interested in obstruction than in construction when it comes to the problems of housing and urban-renewal.

The whole story of the wasting decline of our aging cities is filled with personal as well as social tragedy. So also in the present plight of so many of our aging citizens, two-thirds of whom are trying to survive in our dangerously inflated economy on incomes of less than \$1,000 a year. Many retired workers and elderly widows haven't enough money to pay for the most elementary decencies of life. According to a study made in 1952, more than one-fourth of the elderly people in Rhode Island live in homes without the most essential sanitary facilities. All over the country, similar figures could be quoted. Often left to themselves and ignored, with little attention being given to

ways in which they might be living in happiness, usefulness, and dignity, hundreds of thousands of our more elderly citizens represent a tragic and inhuman lack of regard on the part of the general public for the worth of those who, in the past, did so much to make our country productive and strong.

I am, therefore, very happy that I have been able to do something in their behalf. In January of this year I introduced a measure to provide for holding a White House Conference on Aging, to be planned and conducted by the Special Staff on Aging of the Department of Health and Welfare, with a view to exploring the ways in which the federal government might aid the states in conserving and developing the human resources of elderly Americans and helping them to a fuller and more satisfying life. That bill has now become law.

In the eight years since the last such White House Conference was held so much has been learned and so many additional organizations and individuals have entered the field that the projected Conference, which will be held in 1960, is certain to be most fruitful of good results. If I am re-elected, I can assure you that I will do all with-

in my power to make it so.

The needs of the aging are the needs of those who have helped to make America great in the past. Equally important are the needs in education for those young people who, we hope, will make America even greater in the future. Many of the provisions of a bill which I introduced in April of this year to provide financial aid and improved facilities for students in our high schools, colleges, and universities were included in the broad, four-year education program adopted by the 85th Congress. But the task still confronting us is enormous, if we are to meet the challenge of the Soviet drive for technical supremacy without sacrificing the cultural values of our free society.

In school construction alone the needs are very great, and the record shows that overwhelming Democratic strength in Congress will be required if the Eisenhower-Nixon policy of sacrificing school buildings to the balanced budget (which doesn't get balanced) is to be successfully overcome. In 1956 and 1957, although President Eisenhower had earlier admitted that "1,700,000 American boys and girls were without any school facilities," the Republicans defeated school construction

bills. In 1958 Republican members of the House Education and Labor Committee killed a similar proposal before it ever reached the floor. I pledge to you, on the basis of my record, that if the voters of the 2nd Congressional District permit me to continue to represent them in the next Congress, I will continue to carry on the kind of work which, in spite of Republican opposition, enabled me to gain additional funds for the construction of schools in federally impacted areas, with a resulting estimated 800 jobs for workers in the State of Rhode Island.

In education, as in other vital matters, bills which I proposed in the 85th Congress became part of desirable legislation which was later adopted, or served as an impetus for it. For example, my proposal of January 1957, suggested in part by Dr. Paul Dudley White of Boston, for a sweeping investigation of our frightful toll of 40,000 annual traffic fatalities paved the way for later Congressional action, just as my bill of April 1958 for a study of the problems of the textile industry can be said to have helped to spark the interest which resulted in Congressional action in this field. If re-elected, I will continue

my vigorous interest in these essential concerns, just as I intend to press once again for pensions for the widows and orphans of deceased veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict on the same basis as the pensions now granted to the widows and children of World War I veterans, where death is held to have been non-service connected.

The time at my disposal this morning does not permit me to discuss with you the part I hope you will allow me to play in meeting other great issues, such as the rising cost of living and the threat to world peace. But in subsequent broadcasts I shall have an opportunity to do so, and I assure you that I will be as grateful for your interest as I am for the many evidences of your support which I have already received in this campaign. I believe sincerely in the wisdom and fairness of the people, and I trust that when all the issues have been squarely placed before them, the voters of the 2nd Congressional District will, on Election Day, demonstrate that they, in turn, believe that their past confidence in me has been fully justified.