

RADIO ADDRESS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE  
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND NEAR OCTOBER 28, 1958

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Providence was visited recently by Vice-President Nixon, who seems to have become the official cheer leader for the so-called "Republican team." In an almost frantic effort to bolster the sagging morale of his party, Mr. Nixon engaged in some powerful wishful thinking about the results of next week's election. In his groundless prophecy of a Republican victory, the Vice-President seemed to assume that the voters would forget about the Republican recession, which has been affecting all of us since summer of 1957.

When that recession began, the Administration refused to acknowledge the existence of such an embarrassing result of its own policies of tight money, high interest rates, and reduced expenditures for defense, housing, and many important government services. The "Republican team," which was expensively advertised in 1956 as being engaged in a crusade for "70 million jobs and spreading prosperity," refused to face the facts of the recession.

But ignoring the difficulty did not make it go away. Unemployment spread and the standing Republican bankruptcy record of 1932 was broken.

As late as April of this year, Commerce Secretary Weeks happily proclaimed, "I'll bet anybody now, that April will be better than March." It was a poor bet, but it was typical of the action of most of the leading Republicans.

Long before the recession set in, I joined other Democrats in warning of the approaching trouble. The Republicans tried to brush these warnings aside with jokes about "gloom and Boom." Their theme song to the American people was "Never fear. Ike is here." But when bankruptcies rose 129 per cent over their 1933 level and 5 million Americans were unemployed, the gloom was not a laughing matter any more. In fact, the doom of the Republicans in the coming elections was made inevitable.

Now that the Republican campaigners are growing desperate, they are acknowledging the existence of the recession by saying that it is about over. Meanwhile, the propaganda machinery of

big business, carefully geared to the production of Republican ammunition, is operating at top speed to assure the public that, to use a suspiciously familiar old phrase, "Prosperity is just around the corner."

Yet, automobile production is still almost 40 percent below that of 1957, while steel, carloadings, and other industries continue to be well below their year-ago rate. Of course, there was a very slight decline in unemployment when young people went back to school in September and housewives working on farms or in canneries returned to their homes. But unemployment is still over 4,700,000, and the most optimistic prophecy of the Department of Labor points to at least 3.5 million insured unemployed for fiscal 1959, which does not account for anything like the actual total expected.

Nor does it take into account the fact that each year we now add about 900,000 new workers to the labor force. This means that in 1959 we will not only have to re-create the jobs of 1958,

but, in addition, we will have to find nearly a million new jobs.

In short, our economy must expand far more rapidly than the Republican policy of economic retreat will ever permit.

Right now the GOP campaigners are attempting to confuse us with such samples of economic double-talk as what they call, "an encouraging side--wise movement toward recovery." Here in Rhode Island their theme is that the Republican Party will create what they are pleased to describe as "a climate favorable to business." Yet, under the national Republican Administration, with all the resources at its disposal, the Federal Reserve Board's index shows that the output of durable goods fell 20 per cent; soft goods declined 6 per cent; and primary metals dropped 40 per cent. In addition, as I have already noted, bankruptcies hit a record high. If that is what Republicans mean by a "climate favorable to business," we certainly don't want it in Rhode Island or anywhere else in America.

Like Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, Rhode Island has its difficult economic problems. Everyone knows and recognizes that. But Republican campaigners conveniently ignore the fact that our local problems are enormously intensified by the generally bad effects of the national recession. In fact, ever since July 1957, the employment trends in Rhode Island have been roughly parallel to those in other parts of the country. In August, for example, Rhode Island's insured unemployment was 5.7 per cent of the State's covered employment; the national average for the same period was 5.2 per cent. Our local Republican candidates, governed as they are by the very economic philosophy which produced the national recession, are scarcely in a position to live up to the extravagant campaign promises to overcome Rhode Island's economic difficulties which they are now handing out so glibly.

In this connection, I would like to recall the fact that as far back as February 1957, I introduced a measure (HR 4650) that was designed to establish an effective program to alleviate conditions of unemployment in economically distressed areas. Much later, the Administration sponsored a weak counter-measure. Finally, in the closing days of the 85th Congress, we were able to get a bill passed that would have provided \$200 million in redevelopment funds for loans to construct industrial plants and \$75 million for the development of public facilities that would improve industrial opportunities. Rhode Island, and especially the city of Providence, would have greatly benefited from that measure. But President Eisenhower killed it with a pocket veto.

The Republican Administration's whole approach to the challenge of the recession has been marked by similar examples of indecision and confusion. The few steps it was forced to take were fragmentary, inadequate, and completely short-sighted. A perfect illustration is the Temporary Unemployment Compensation Act, under which a worker can get as little as three weeks of benefits after his regular compensation has been exhausted.

This half--hearted measure provided too little and came too late.

A bill which I introduced in March would have made every worker who exhausted his regular benefits eligible for 16 additional weeks, and the cost would have been carried by the Federal government, not by the already heavily taxed employers, as under the Republican bill.

As the Administration bungled unemployment compensation so it also offered nothing but a few inadequate expedients to stimulate the economy in the recession. It opposed even such vital measures as the rivers and harbors bill, which included the Fox Point Dam and the opportunity of some 5,000 jobs for Rhode Island. Yet, in spite of Republican obstruction, I was able to win passage for bills which will result in well over 10,000 jobs for Rhode Islanders. Not only did I help to get approval for the Fox Point Dam and similar projects, but I also secured funds for expanded naval facilities at Newport, Quonset Point, and Davisville, which will provide employment

for over 3,000. In addition, the appropriations which I obtained for hospital construction and for schools in federally impacted areas will provide a combined total of 3600 more jobs in the State.

As I look to the future of our great and growing nation, I anticipate developments of progress with which the worn-out economic philosophy of the Republican Party cannot cope. In a short time, the youngsters who were born in the early years of World War II - a total of about 5 million -- will be added to our labor force.

To prepare for that situation, we need a Democratic Congress that will think in terms of an expanding America, not an America of tight money, high interest rates, falling production, and rising prices. Such a Congress will open new revenues for the government as the economy grows. It will reduce the level of taxation and bring down the huge Federal deficit.



I hope that you will allow me to make my contribution to the work of that Democratic Congress by casting your vote for me on November 4. I have worked for a growing American economy, and for Rhode Island's rightful place in it, over the past 18 years. I have devoted my greatest energies to the problems of labor, education, health, and welfare because they bear most directly upon the well-being of our State and nation. I think that these are the very things that you have wanted me to stand for and be interested in, and I sincerely believe that your votes for me on Election Day will prove that you think so too.