

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, SECOND DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND IN THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ADD \$1 MILLION TO SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 1958 TO ESTABLISH AND CONTINUE A HEALTH EXHIBIT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF BRUSSELS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1958.

Mr. Speaker:

In recent weeks considerable concern has been expressed over the prospect that the United States exhibit at the Brussels' World Fair will present us to the world as a second-rate power, particularly in comparison with the elaborate and expensive showing which will be staged by the Soviet Union. Lack of adequate financial resources is given as the primary problem.

I am particularly concerned because my preliminary inquiries reveal that plans for the United States presentation at Brussels may contain no provision for any exhibit depicting the tremendous contribution made by this country toward advances in the field of medicine and public health. If we are to adhere to the theme established for this great Fair, which is: "A World View--a New Humanism", we must not fail to present an effective showing of the great advances which we have made in improving the health of our people, the dramatic decreases of disabling illness and increases in life span which we have achieved. These are works of humanism of which we can be justly proud and which we can and should share with the world.

For whatever the reason--lack of funds or lack of space--this vital field of our endeavor for a better life for our people has been ignored in the planning for the United States exhibit at Brussels. In contrast, a large part of the Soviet pavillion of some 200,000 square feet will be devoted to the exposition of the Soviet Public Health Service. This exposition is discussed in some detail in an article which appeared in the Soviet publication, Medical Worker, last March. I ask unanimous consent that the translated text of this article be printed at the conclusion of my remarks.

This article reveals that the Russians are planning extensive exhibits depicting their facilities for health protection both in the fields of preventive medicine and medical services, their training system for physicians and other technical personnel, displays of medical equipment and instruments, of medical and health services provided in their industrial establishments, and various other aspects of health and medical work in the Soviet Union. In total, the public health section of the Soviet pavillion will contain more than 1,000 displays.

The Soviets have been quick to seize upon health as a vehicle for promoting their brand of the new humanism. The United States, on the other hand, has made no provision to demonstrate a humanitarian activity of which we are indeed proud and which we should display to the world at every opportunity. The desire for health is universal. It is shared by princes and paupers. It is in this field where the United States has surpassed any other nation in the world. Malaria has not only been conquered in the United States, but has been eradicated. This is a disease that once affected millions of Americans annually and even at one time was a deterrent to the settlement of a state as far north as Illinois. We have eradicated yellow fever, cholera, and plague, each of which at one time ravaged the United States. Other diseases such as poliomyelitis are fast disappearing. We now enjoy the longest and healthiest life span in our history. Our laboratories daily find new drugs which are useful in the prevention and alleviation of human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be a tragic error if the United States failed to show these advances to the world. These advances are of a humanitarian nature and no critic can attribute them to commercialism or imperialism.

Presentation of an adequate public health exhibit at Brussels will be extremely difficult should we begin at this late date. The planning, fabrication, and erection of such exhibits normally takes many weeks. Fortunately, my inquiry has revealed that some preliminary plans for a suitable health exhibit have already been drawn in the hopes that a means could be found to carry them through to completion. As a matter of fact it may be possible to transform our late start from a disadvantage to an advantage.

I understand that there is insufficient space in the United States pavillion now being constructed in Brussels to provide for a health exhibit. Consequently, the preliminary plans to which I have referred contemplate an additional structure of some 14,000 square feet to house a health exhibit. This structure, which would cost approximately \$750,000 to erect, equip, and staff, would contain facilities demonstrating the various aspects of rural medicine as practiced in the United States. In it would be a 10-bed hospital nursing unit with ancillary facilities, an operating room with

associated facilities, facilities for a rural preventive public health program including appropriate offices, examination and consultation rooms, an outpatient department, diagnostic and treatment facilities consisting of x-ray, laboratory and physical therapy rooms, a pharmacy, and a 200-seat auditorium.

It is estimated that such a structure as I have described can be placed in operation within approximately four months of the time it is decided to go ahead with the project. This period of time would appear to rule out such a project, since obviously it could not be completed in time for the opening of the Fair on April 17. Actually, this fact can be turned to our advantage by using the construction period as a part of the United States presentation. Arrangements can be made for sidewalk demonstrations to be carried on while construction is in progress, explaining to visitors and onlookers how an American community mobilizes its resources, plans and arranges and carries through to completion the provision of such a community facility. Here we can present, in contrast to the Soviet display of "despotic benevolence," our own demonstration of citizen participation. We can prepare a health exhibit which will be in operation by the time most of the heavy summer influx of visitors arrive at the Fair and at the same time take advantage of the early months to present to visitors at the Fair a demonstration of American community action.

What can be demonstrated in such a building to show our health activities to the best advantage? Some of the factors that contribute to our fine health system are: (1) high caliber of medical and research personnel due to the quality of undergraduate teaching and the availability of postgraduate study; (2) the availability of research, public health, and medical care facilities; and (3) the appreciation of the American public of the role of health personnel and facilities for their welfare. Each of these factors can be dramatically illustrated by displays and demonstrations.

Regarding training, I have been impressed by the closed circuit color television programs which have been made available to the medical profession. These programs are scheduled on a regular basis; the medium permits demonstrations by the most eminent physicians and surgeons wherever

they are located in the United States; they present the most recent advances in medicine and surgery by visual methods. I feel confident that arrangements can be made to present such a demonstration on a health subject that will not only be of great interest to the viewing public but will be illustrative of a method that provides us with highly trained medical talent.

The factor that we have an informed public should be illustrated by programs of health education through popular magazines in addition to the demonstrations of community organization to which I have referred. We are fortunate that the United States has large numbers of scientific and medical writers who publish in lay terms the new advances in medicine. I am convinced that this has made the United States the most informed nation in the world on the subject of health. The United States also leads the nations of the world in the strength of its voluntary health agencies which work in close cooperation with governmental health agencies and the medical profession in the war on disease. These voluntary agencies are supported by the generous donations of monies and services by the American people dedicated to the common task of raising health standards.

Once the building is in operation, its auditorium and other facilities can accommodate dramatic demonstrations of our progress and accomplishments in medicine and public health. I have suggested that the plans which I have described be expanded to include a series of presentations in specialized fields of health and medicine in which this country has made particularly notable progress. This might be done in a series with a "Feature of the Week" theme. Suitable subjects for such a series might well include our progress in prevention of dental caries through fluoridation; use of radioactive isotopes in medicine; gains in the battle against cancer, such as the cervical cytology programs going on in many communities; the dramatic strides forward in early diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic fever; programs for the rehabilitation of the handicapped; and the Salk polio vaccine story.

I would hope and expect that world famous leaders in American medicine would participate in arranging appropriate special exhibits and would speak at the Fair. I think of such men as Jonas Salk, Paul Dudley White, Alfred Blalock, Charles Mayo, Sydney Farber, Howard Rusk, and the Menninger brothers. Undoubtedly Dr. Salk, for example, could

make an impressive presentation of his work which is leading us toward the conquest of poliomyelitis, and Dr. Rusk an inspiring demonstration of the work for which he can be justly proud in the rehabilitation of the handicapped. Perhaps Dr. Rusk's work could be vividly illustrated by the personal appearance of a few of the handicapped persons who have been restored to useful lives through the rehabilitation programs in which he is engaged. I mention these few outstanding men by way of illustration. I am sure that there are others who would be willing to join in this effort and have a part in telling to the world the story of American progress in health and medicine through the medium of such an exhibition at Brussels.

If we are to have any hope of presenting to the world, at Brussels, some indication of our tremendous progress in the health field; if we are to have any chance of avoiding a serious discredit in the eyes of the world in comparison with the Soviet display, then immediate action is necessary. The Congress has received a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$2,054,000 to be applied to the cost of United States participation in the Brussels Fair. None of this amount, nor of the original appropriation for this purpose, is to my knowledge to be available for a public health exhibit. All of it is justified in detail for other purposes.

Therefore, I have introduced this amendment to provide an additional \$1,000,000, specifically for a public health exhibit. I hope that the members of this Congress will share with me the view that this is an important and urgently needed expenditure. I also stress the extreme urgency of this situation. Time is running out. Prompt action is essential if we are to avoid a serious loss of United States prestige at Brussels in the eyes of the world.

The United States has much to gain or lose in its participation in the Brussels Fair. I believe that one of our most effective progressive and humanitarian ventures is in demonstration of our conquest of disease and the omission of health from our presentation would be a grievous error. To avoid the commission of such an error I strongly urge your support of this amendment to the supplemental appropriation for our participation in the Brussels Fair. I trust that my amendment will enjoy the active support of all members of the House.

From: Meditainskii Rabetnik
(Medical Worker)

Soviet Public Health Exposition at the Brussels World's Fair in 1958

The World's Fair that is to open in Brussels next year will display the progress attained by the nations of the world in the areas of science, industry, agriculture, and the arts for the last 50 years.

Professor N. X. Grasholenkov, Chairman of the Commission on the Preparation of the Public Health Section of the Pavilion of the USSR, stated that the pavilion of the Soviet Union will be a large, light-flooded building of glass brick and aluminum totaling an effective exposition area of 22,000 square meters, a considerable part of which will be devoted to the exposition of the Soviet Public Health Service. This public health section will demonstrate to the public health experts abroad, as well as to the people at large, the basic attainments in health protection enjoyed by the populace of the USSR, with specific demographic data on incidence of disease, mortality birth rates, and population increase.

Visitors will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the underlying principles and the organizational system of the medical services, particularly the features of being free and accessible to all, plus the emphasis on preventive medicine and the adequacy of budgetary appropriations for public health in the USSR.

Numerous exhibits will acquaint the World's Fair visitors with the various types of medical institutions of the USSR, with their organization, purposes, and functions. A contour map constructed of plastic material and metal will furnish a visual demonstration of how well the population of the Soviet republics and regional areas (oblasts) is provided with the basic categories of medical aid administered by adequate numbers of medical personnel. A special section will illustrate the training system for physicians and for medium-grade medical personnel, post-graduate studies and specialization, and so forth.

An important place will be occupied by displays on the protection of motherhood and childhood as provided for by the existing laws and by numerous institutions, with a description of the types of institutions and their functional procedures; also displays of the medical-service network for school children and teenagers.

Each section will contain information on the quantitative growth of the public health network over the years--1913, 1940, 1950, 1955, 1957, with respective plans for 1960. Particular emphasis will be laid on providing information relating to new institutions recently incorporated into the network, their equipment and rigging with newly-developed Soviet apparatus, instruments, and devices, newly-introduced therapeutic procedures, such as the application of radioactive isotopes.

Life in the Soviet therapeutic and prophylactic establishments, health resorts, and sanatoria will be featured with the aid of artistically executed photo exhibits.

Much attention will be given to the display of medical and health services for the benefit of the workers engaged in the industrial enterprises of the country, with emphasis on the improvement in sanitary conditions of labor, industrial sanitation and hygiene, mechanization of labor-consuming processes which have been effected through the period 1951-1956. In this area, special displays will depict the self-activities of trade union and public organizations in guarding the health and well-being of the toilers.

Alongside the urban public health displays, there will be displays of medical and health service facilities for the rural areas. Here, particular emphasis will be placed on the public health facilities available to the toilers on the virgin and fallow lands in the outlying areas of the country.

A large color panorama will lead off the part of the Soviet pavilion that will be given over to the display of health resorts and sanatoria. The visitors will have the opportunity to form an idea of the health resources of the Soviet Union, of the newly developed health resorts in the republics of Central Asia, Eastern Siberia, the Far East, types of sanatoria, and effective cure indexes.

From: Meditainskii Rabetnik
(Medical Worker)

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Much light will be thrown on the part played by Soviet medical science on the principia and organization of sanitary education.

Diagrams, photos, texts, and original up-to-date models will depict the output of the Chemice-Pharmaceutical and Medical Instrument Industries of the USSR.

The dimensions and the scope involved in the public health section of the Soviet pavilion may be judged by the magnitude of its display area--a total of 550 square meters to accommodate more than 1,000 displays. The section will be filled with color panels, dioramas, sculptural works, color photo displays, animated diagrams and cartograms, albums, three-dimensional mountings, and the like.

The Central Institute of Sanitary Education is responsible for the work of preparation and design, with the Main Inspection Administrations and the Departments of the Ministry of Health, USSR, plus a number of Scientific and Research Institutes lending a hand.