

ADDRESS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR CEREBRAL PALSY AT THE SHERATON-BILTMORE HOTEL, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND ON THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1958

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome to Rhode Island members of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy. For years many of us have been working together in a common cause. Often we have met here in Providence or in my offices in Washington to consider the heartache of this dread disorder and the economic loss to individual families and to the nation. Much remains to be done but the groundwork has now been laid for an effective attack against cerebral palsy.

One of the most rewarding experiences of my eighteen years in Congress has been the opportunity it has given me to fight for increased appropriations to improve the health conditions and medical care for all Americans. For 12 years it has been my privilege to bring before Congress, either as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee on Appropriations or as the ranking minority member, the annual appropriations bill for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

It has been a gratifying experience to observe the enthusiastic response of people throughout the nation to increasing allocations for medical research in a major effort to find answers to unsolved medical problems. This year our efforts were unusually successful. I was able to bring to Congress a bill which provided an increase in the appropriations for the National Institutes of Health from \$211 million to \$294 million. This 40 percent increase will make possible an enlarged program of research

in cancer, heart disease, mental health, arthritis and metabolic diseases, dental health, allergies and infectious diseases, and neurological diseases and blindness.

The new appropriations for the fiscal year 1959 provide almost \$30 million for neurological diseases and blindness. This is a great achievement for which we are all grateful. I remember as do you when not a dime was being appropriated for cerebral palsy. The millions of Americans with neurological disorders were the forgotten people of America. Ever since the first appropriation for the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness in the spring of 1951, however, prevention and cure of cerebral palsy has had a high priority. This year, 157 different research projects directly relating to cerebral palsy are underway at Bethesda and cooperating institutions. In addition, the Institute has 278 other research projects which are indirectly related to this disorder.

Of all these projects, none is more promising than the Collaborative Project on Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and other Neurological Disorders. Universities and hospitals from Boston to San Francisco and from Minneapolis to New Orleans are participating in this long-term investigation into the causes of cerebral palsy and related disorders. Some 40,000 mothers will be studied over a five-year period and their offspring will be followed until they are six years of age.

I am very proud to report that Rhode Island is playing a key role in this project. Under the direction of Dr. Glidden Brooks, and with the cooperation of Dr. J. Walter Wilson, Dr. Eric Denhoff and others, our cooperating institutions include Brown University's Department of Biology and Psychology through the Institute for Research in the Health Sciences, Providence Lying-in Hospital, the Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital, and the Meeting Street School.

The Academy and the Collaborative Project have much in common. Not only is cerebral palsy a prime concern for both, but both the Academy and the Project have gathered together doctors of many disciplines to consider the problem. Joined together in a concerted effort to solve the problem of cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders of infancy and childhood are neurologists, pediatricians, orthopedic surgeons, obstetricians, neuropathologists, social workers, psychiatrists and psychologists, and basic scientists such as neuroanatomists, neurochemists, and neurophysiologists.

Many of the Academy's leaders have also been providing leadership for the Collaborative Project. An excellent example is your past president, Dr. Nicholson J. Eastman, dean of American obstetricians. Under his leadership last November, and in keeping with the Academy's policy to promote basic research, the Academy sponsored a symposium on Kernicterus. I understand that this was a highlight of last year's meeting.

Dr. Eastman is also playing a key role in relation to the Collaborative Project. As Chairman of the Advisory Board, he has provided leadership in the development of many aspects of the study. As he has said many times, some of the by-products of the Project may be as important as the study. One in which he is particularly interested is the contribution which is being made to the improvement of hospital records. Originally interested in standard examinations, forms, and records in his field of obstetrics, he has now encouraged similar uniformity in other fields. Such developments will make possible not only an effective correlation of data from the Collaborative Project but will contribute to all future medical research.

At the same time 40,000 mothers and their babies are being observed in many cities throughout the nation, a related project is being conducted in Puerto Rico. Here an experimental project with pregnant monkeys is underway. The experimental results in primates will be compared to the large clinical study in humans. Of special interest is the observation in newborn monkeys of delay in breathing at the time of birth, as well as other factors which may result in cerebral palsy. Although we have known for a long time that lack of oxygen caused brain damage, never before have we had an opportunity to observe, within the span of a few days, the brain damage caused by lack of oxygen. The study is only a year old but already has shown that monkeys from which oxygen has been withheld, even for short periods of time, have grave problems of coordination.

I believe the Collaborative Project and other long-range research projects relating to cerebral palsy now underway can bring us the answers which will prevent this disorder in the future. Until such answers are found, however, a major emphasis must be given to rehabilitation. The Academy has long provided leadership in this field. Under the direction of your president, Dr. William T. Green, Dr. George Deaver, Dr. Meyer A. Pearlstein, and many others, great advances have been made toward rehabilitating the cerebral palsied and integrating them into the general community life.

Our goal for the future must be two-fold: the very best medical care and therapy for all those now afflicted with cerebral palsy, and the prevention of the disorder in all children yet unborn. The full-scale attack is now underway. Many disciplines are working together to study with extreme care the entire process of pregnancy, birth, and childhood. And many scientists are approaching the problem from its basic aspects. With a renewed understanding and determination and the increased appropriations now available, I believe success will crown our efforts.