

Radio address of the Hon. John E. Fogarty, Member
of Congress from the 2nd District of Rhode Island over
Station WEAN, Providence, R.I., October 7, 1958.

R a d i o A d d r e s s W E A N O c t o b e r 7 , 1 9 5 8

Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

During the eighteen years that the ~~people~~^{voters} of the Second Congressional District have given me the opportunity and responsibility of serving as their Representative in the Congress of the United States, I have been guided by the simple principle that our government exists to serve the people. Anyone who will examine my record will find that the legislation which I have proposed or supported was clearly intended to help those whom I represented to have a reasonable measure of peace, health, and security in these complex and often difficult times. As a member--and as chairman--of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee which is concerned with the fundamentally important legislation affecting labor, education, health, and welfare, I have been especially close to the everyday, practical problems of using the resources of the federal government in the public service with maximum efficiency and the greatest possible benefit to the people of the District, the State of Rhode Island, and the nation.

The Democratically controlled 85th Congress was outstanding in its efforts to put the welfare of all the people above merely partisan advantage. Faced with the challenge of Russian sputniks, it was marked by a sense of urgency that did not, however, yield to hysterical pressures for ill-considered "crash programs". Confronted by the dismal consequences of the recession, unemployment, and the rising cost of living, the Democrats pressed for effective counter-measures, in spite of consistent obstruction from the Administration, which appeared to be incapable of providing leadership in the worsening domestic situation.

Now the people are being asked to judge in the coming election as to which party has shown itself to be really fit to serve them best in meeting the many unresolved difficulties which trouble the nation. Constructive action is needed in those very matters in which Congress can most influence policy, and indications are coming in from every side to show that the record of the 85th Congress for work rather than promises has convinced a substantial majority of the voters that the Republican Party, which does not lack for wealth, is virtually bankrupt when it comes to dealing with the problems of inflation, widespread unemployment, and the economic slump that have hit retired people, wage earners, and thousands of small, independent business firms so badly. Vacated shops and dwindling savings have done more to shake public confidence in Republican promises than even the pathetic collapse of the empty boast that the Republican party does not tolerate corruption in government.

It is not, therefore, surprising that the N. Y. Herald Tribune, a paper that cannot be accused of having a bias in favor of the Democratic Party, reported last week that according to a Gallup poll, 62 percent of the voters believe that the problems facing the United States today can best be handled by Democrats. That opinion will be overwhelmingly expressed at the polls this November. It is more than the reflection of the Administration's lack of leadership. The confidence of the people in the Democratic Party is a positive response to the record of the 85th Congress.

In the making of that record, it has been my privilege to have had some part. Consequently, I do not have to come before the voters of the Second Congressional District, with whom I have had a mutual relationship of trust for the past eighteen years, with nothing but a promise of great

expectations for the future. I can instead ask them to measure what will be done by what has already been accomplished.

I am especially happy to have been instrumental in winning the battle against the Administrations' attempts to bring about what the N. Y. Times called "the most far-reaching retrenchments in welfare programs ever made." In its fiscal budget for 1959 the Eisenhower-Nixon administration proposed crippling cuts in funds for medical research in the vital fields of cancer, heart diseases, and mental illness. Here, as in their efforts to cut the budget of the Food and Drug Administration by 18 percent and their attempts to cut out federal grants for the construction of sewage treatment plants, the Republicans displayed a singular disregard for problems which reach into the lives and well-being of all Americans.

In this connection, I should like to point out that during the 8 years in which I have been chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for the appropriations for Health, Education, and Welfare, Rhode Island has taken a leading position as a center for medical research, research training, and progressive health programs. Through the Public Health Service, Brown University, Providence College, Rhode Island Hospital, the University of Rhode Island, Butler Hospital, and the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital have received grants for ~~22~~ research projects totalling ^{well over a} ~~almost one-half~~ million dollars. Appropriations for hospital construction have meant the opening up of employment for at least 2800 people in Rhode Island, while our State established one of the first cancer detection centers for the cytologic testing of women to be set up anywhere in the nation.

Encouraging as these developments are, I am particularly grateful that the work of my Subcommittee has brought some help to the 500,000 people in the United States who have cerebral palsy and the estimated 4,500,000 with mental retardation, of whom about one-third are children. The plight of these youngsters and the anguish of their parents, first brought to my attention several years ago by the devoted concern of ~~Archbishop Richard J. Cushing~~, cannot be measured in dollars.

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~~But the funds appropriated for neurological study and the research grants for improving the educational opportunities of the mentally retarded will speed the day when this terrible burden may be lifted.~~

The people of Rhode Island can take just pride in the fact that their state has come to play an essential role in the national neurological program. Brown University's Department of Biology and Psychology, through the Institute for Research in the Health Sciences, was one of the first professional groups to join in a collaborative study under the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness in Bethesda, Maryland. Today the Providence Lying-in Hospital, the Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Emma Pendleton Bradley Home, and the Meeting Street School are all working with the University in this program.

But just as the Administration was prepared to cut back the funds which have made this progress possible, so it was equally ready to oppose a measure which is of the greatest concern to the well-being of the people of the Second Congressional District. I refer, of course, to the Democratically sponsored Rivers and Harbors bill. This \$1.5 billion dollar measure involved

a total of 151 projects, including the construction of effective hurricane barriers for Narragansett Bay. The story of the uphill fight for this program, which President Eisenhower described as a "waste of public funds" and vetoed in 1956 and April 1958, is one in which I can truthfully say I played no small part. As one of its sponsors and defenders in the House of Representatives, I helped to see this measure written into law this June. The \$25 million project which this will bring to our State will not only afford long-^{awaited} relief from the ravages of hurricanes but will provide over 5,000 jobs for Rhode Islanders. It stands as solid evidence of the kind of public works program through which the Democratic Party seeks to fight the recession and its evil consequences.

It will be my purpose in future radio talks over this station to bring to your attention further proofs of the record of constructive work and positive action for the public good which my Democratic colleagues and I have been able to achieve during the term of the 85th Congress. There is no substitute for such concrete and definite legislative work, just as there can be no acceptable substitute for the experience and the honest intentions which produced it. But it is not only the past that concerns the thoughtful voter. He is entitled to know why the Democratic majorities which characterized the 85th Congress should be strengthened during the last two years in which the Administration will be in power. What is to be the future for housing, the aging, education? What are the prospects for constructive proposals for world peace and for beating the constantly rising living cost, which the Administration has allowed to go unchecked? Will the die-hard Republican Old Guard, the voice of the dead past, be permitted to hold sufficient strength in Congress to sabotage even that legislation which more

progressive Republicans might be disposed to support? I am confident that after a fair hearing of my answers to these and other important questions affecting their well-being, the voters of the Second Congressional District will, as they have done in the past, permit me to represent and serve them in the next Congress.