

SPEECH OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M. C., 2ND DISTRICT RHODE ISLAND
AT THE OSTEOPATHIC GENERAL HOSPITAL OF RHODE ISLAND DINNER AT JOHNSON'S
HUMMOCK, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1959.

It is indeed a pleasure to meet with you and to share in the fellowship of your hospital family dinner. I am deeply appreciative, also, of the invitation to talk with you for a few minutes on the subject of health.

I know that this is an auspicious occasion for the Osteopathic General Hospital, because with it you launch a new endeavor to make possible vitally needed hospital services for our people -- services on an even fuller and wider basis than those which you have so well provided in the past.

You know already, to some degree, how close to my heart these matters are: providing adequate hospital services, building good medical care and public health measures, and strengthening the medical research which furnishes findings to form the basis for saving lives and reducing the devastation of disease.

In almost a score of years in Congress, I have made it a major mission to do everything possible toward a course of action which would see the Federal government carrying its appropriate part of the burden of providing for health and welfare and education necessities--with our States and communities sustained and strengthened in their rightful leadership and direction of their own services to their own people in these as in other fields.

The strength of our community, as in all communities throughout the country, depends primarily upon the development of our own resources under our own leadership.

In no field is this more true than in that of developing good hospitals. Your aim to improve and increase the facilities and services of your hospital, therefore, is one that deserves wide support. Attainment of your goal will mean the bringing of more and better hospital care to more of our people. This has direct bearing on the total strength of our community.

This is so, of course, because the health of the community is the sum of the health of the individuals who compose it. Health is essential if an individual is to fulfill himself and to be a functioning member of the community. Health is also indispensable if a community is to have happiness, productivity, and general well-being. Thus, there are convincing humanitarian, social, and even cold economic reasons why better health should be a primary objective of your group, of our community, of our State, and of our Nation.

We seek better health today in many ways, along many new routes.

Among them, there is the very important, the indispensable road of progress toward better health through hospitals attuned to today's needs. It is to this goal that you are addressing yourselves, and I can think of no endeavor more worthwhile, and more urgently needing both the leadership which you are giving and people's support which, I feel sure, will ensue.

Also among the new routes to better health is the road to progress through research. Investments in research are investments for the future, and the benefits of research, particularly in recent years, demonstrate conclusively that our investment in medical research in prior years is paying off.

While there are other, allied routes to health that could be discussed (such as those involving the prevention of disease through public health measures, for example), I shall speak primarily of hospitals and of research. They are, of course, closely allied. Moreover, it is consideration of these two routes--and especially that of the hospital--that, I think, is of most direct interest to all of us on this occasion.

Earlier, I mentioned the development of our resources as a major factor upon which the strength and health of a community depends.

What are some of these resources which are essential to our forward march toward better health?

It should be said first that the generally improving picture and pattern of hospital and related medical services, and of research, constitute a very great resource today. We have achieved great things in America in this respect. Witness the overall improvement of health as reflected in statistics showing victories over infectious diseases, and the longest life expectancy and the greatest reductions in infant and maternal mortality the world has ever seen.

It is axiomatic, however, that such achievements bring new problems. They pose larger burdens upon research, for instance, because the fall of communicable diseases has been accompanied, as it were, by the rise of chronic killers and cripples like cancer and heart disease.

Yet even more than in the case of research, achievement of the past cause our hospitals to be confronted with new, more complex, and more immediate problems. This, I am sure, is one of the reasons why you are seeking to make the Osteopathic General Hospital capable of meeting new needs and new demands that you and I and the public know must be met.

Meeting these needs is not merely something desirable, that we would seek just because it is a good thing to do. Meeting these needs is an emphatic necessity, not of a far-off future, but of the present, and it is most heartening to me that you have taken up the challenge.

On this hospital family occasion, we may well reflect upon your part and that of the profession of osteopathy in the record of the recent past and in the picture of today's American endeavor against disease.

In this brief pause and gathering of minds and means toward tomorrow's campaigns for the hospital, and for other work along all the routes to better health, you may well be proud that this hospital, and the profession it represents, are indeed shoulder-to-shoulder partners with all others in the medical and hospital and health professions that are bringing America the best health services in the world today.

It is important for more people to know of the place and importance of osteopathy in our national picture of health maintenance and health improvement ...to know, for example, that there are some 13,000 osteopathic physicians now in practice, licensed in all States, and that today there are six colleges of osteopathy with some 2,000 students enrolled. With over 400 hospitals and other resources the institutions of osteopathy constitute a real and tangible asset in our Nation's health forces. Just as your hospital and professional people are a substantial asset to our State and community.

The further development of this osteopathic General Hospital will mean, moreover, an increase in the services available to the people whom you, and I, serve.

The kind of looking ahead, of aiming toward sound growth and development, that you are doing here is, I know, characteristic of osteopathy's leaders today. Nor is it, of course, only a current interest; osteopathy has been working toward higher goals for many years. This is clearly illustrated in the progress that has been made in the matter of improving and broadening the training of osteopathic physicians and others who are integral component of the health profession.

For many years now, it has been my great privilege to serve as chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives that is responsible for sitting appropriations for the Departments of Labor and of Health, Education, and Welfare. During this time, I have been particularly concerned with developing adequate and proper Federal support for hospital construction and for medical research and training.

Medical research and training programs, aided but not controlled through Federal funds which my committee has taken leadership in securing, have increased dramatically throughout the past decade, in response to demonstrated public interest and professional need. This support is primarily through the programs of the National Institutes of Health, which in my judgment have developed singularly effective mechanism for providing Federal funds to support research, training, and related activities in the Nation's non-Federal, non-profit medical institutions, under their system of review and administration, the essential judgments about the relative merit of the projects proposed for support are made by outstanding scientists and distinguished laymen from all all over the country. These non-

Federal advisors, who act on behalf of American Science and the American people, apply rigid criteria and assure that the projects supported are evaluated on the basis of merit.

It is gratifying to be able to tell you that there has been what seems to me a healthy increase in the provision of these Federal funds for projects in the osteopathic field; particularly in the training field.

In 1951, there were two National Institutes of Health training grants to schools of osteopathy in the amount of \$45,000. In 1958, there were 17 of these awards, for \$388,191. In all, since 1951, some 92 training grants have been made to osteopathic schools, in the sum of \$2,067,923. In addition, there have been about 67 fellowships awards to promising individuals for special training, in the amount of \$81,442.

The developments that lie behind such figures, it seems to me, are an encouraging harbinger not only for the future of the profession of osteopathy in the teamwork for better health, but also for the future of such institutions such as the Osteopathic General Hospital of ^{Cranston} Providence. We can be sure that, if we ourselves work hard enough, the future will see the realization of today's plans--and even today's dreams--for giant strides along all the new routes to health.

The key to this future--the "secret" formula--lies in the words, "If we ourselves work hard enough."

That the purpose of this occasion, is as I see it...to achieve a kind of rededication to the kind of work that will lead to the achievement of the goals of the hospital. That goal has a fundamental purpose: simply expressed, it is to help more people achieve and maintain better health through this hospital.

If the story of this purpose is widely and well told, if people understand and feel the sincerity of purpose and the practical needs that are the foundation of this new route to health, you will succeed

Buttressing you and your efforts is the fact that Rhode Island is, as she has been since the beginning of our Nation, in the forefront of progress.

In health and medical affairs today, Rhode Island is among the leaders.

How do we know this?

We know it by the number and quality of our hospitals, by the calibre of the care our health professions give us, by the improvements in our public health activities, by the dedication reflected in our professional societies and voluntary health organizations, and by the increasing recognition given our State from national groups when they support medical research, aid in constructing new research laboratories, and ask us to establish demonstration projects and collaborative research studies so that our resources can be used to help solve disease problems that strike people all over the world.

We know that Rhode Island is a leader in the new routes to health because of what the statistics show we have accomplished against untimely death and undue disability from disease.

There are fewer tragic deaths and disabilities, for example, among mothers and infants at the time of childbirth. We have greatly improved the once-black picture of maternal and child mortality. Many of our young people and their families are being spared the ravages of diseases that once threatened us at every turn. There are fewer paralytic polio cases and deaths from this dread affliction. Rheumatic fever, which leads to rheumatic heart disease and was formerly childhood's leading enemy, is definitely on the decline.

These are only bits of the evidence that our State is in the vanguard of health progress. Yet the same factors that cause Rhode Island to be a leader will not permit her to rest on her laurels as new and even more challenging problems emerge.

No one knows better than those concerned with a hospital, as you are, what is required to meet these challenges. None knows better what the hospital's needs are today, and what the hospital must have, and must be able to do, if it is to meet the increasing demands for immediate hospital care that more and more individuals make--not because they want to, but because they are forced to by disease and disability.

You who are gathered here know this story. You do not need me to urge that you tell it to the people. All I can say is: "It is a story worth telling, to each and all. It is a story of service to a child, a woman, a man, and to a family and a community. The story is one of suffering alleviated, of hope restored, of life saved, of death forestalled.

"It is a story, too, that can be told in dollars and economics. What this hospital means to the individual and to the community in these terms should be presented.

"Imagine, perhaps, and picture, what it would have meant if, in the twelve months just past, this institution had not existed in ^{the state.} ~~Providence.~~ Think of our community without this hospital for one solid year!"

But turn then, to the future. There, indeed, the Osteopathic General Hospital has a story to tell which, in its telling, will engage the minds, win the hearts and enlist the support of men and women both as individuals and as members of our community.

To this, as to all endeavors which mark the new routes to health, I pledge my heartiest support.