

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, MEMBER OF
CONGRESS FROM THE SECOND DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND
IN ACCEPTING THE FIRST CITATION AWARD OF THE
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATION AND THE
WORLD ORGANIZATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AT THE
CLARIDGE HOTEL, ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1959

It is a great pleasure to be with you this evening in this convention city. I feel that I just don't know what to say in appreciation of the honor which the American Gastroenterology have bestowed upon me. But finding a congressman completely without words is an occasion which is rare indeed -- if it ever happens.

It is a particular honor to be offered your very first Citation Award for my efforts in promoting this segment of medical research as part of the overall health for peace movement. To have my humble efforts honored on this particular date, the D-day anniversary of sacrifices for peace that were made by so many, seems to have a special, if coincidental, significance. In recalling the concerted drive for peace that our Nation made in those days --

and still makes -- one can only feel that we have all made a real contribution so far towards maintaining the hard-won peace. Let us hope that this thought will stimulate all of us to redouble our previous efforts for lasting peace.

For nearly a score of years, as many of you know, I have devoted myself in my work in the United States Congress to advancing the cause of medical research and training, serving as chairman of the House of Representatives Committee concerned with appropriations for medical research, health, education, and welfare. In gaining recognition of problems with which this Association is most deeply interested, I have been helped in no small measure by the outstanding physician who is your president. As I mentioned at the World Congress of Gastroenterology, he appeared before our committee a little over three years ago with such convincing evidence of the need for research and research training in gastroenterology

that there could be no doubt about the importance of support for such a significant field of research. This communication of the needs and knowledge which exist is indicative of the kind of cooperative assistance which your Association so well provides.

Another thing I have learned in my years of legislative work for medical research support is that we cannot afford to become complacent about any aspect of our research and health picture. While many persons were inclined to neglect the poorly understood gastro-intestinal ailments and to regard them as relatively minor or of unimportant frequency, this attitude is rapidly being dispelled by the revised estimates relating to their incidence. Reports prepared this year by the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases for our Committee hearings showed that peptic ulcer alone strikes one of every ten adults in the United States at some time in their lives.

Fortunately, we have witnessed a rapid growth of interest in medical fields, such as this,

which appear somewhat less dramatic than such illnesses as heart disease and cancer. We have recognized that ulcer, colitis, and ileitis have been stealing from the productive periods of life and causing extreme suffering in the young and middle-aged to a very significant extent. I have been most interested in the diverse and ingenious approaches that research men are devising to combat these disorders. In our recent hearings on medical research appropriations, we learned of a number of these interesting and recent developments and advances.

I do not intend to dwell on these subjects since you are, of course, many jumps ahead of me in these things. Rather, I wish to point out that I follow these developments with a high level of interest and eagerly look forward to learning of your new accomplishments.

Now, while I am thinking along the lines of research, I am sure that you will be interested in hearing something about the ways in which plans

for increasing the current levels of support are being developed. During fiscal year 1959, the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases was able to extend support of the work being carried out on such disorders of the gastrointestinal tract as peptic ulcer, ulcerative colitis, and regional ileitis. Expansion in this field has taken place both in training programs, which are the means of providing capable investigators in the future, as well as in research projects.

Judging from the increases which we in Congress as well as you in science and medicine feel are needed for the Institutes for next year, I think we can anticipate substantial strengthening of research support available for the field of gastroenterology.

Continued and growing interest in medical research has always been followed by increased support, and this has been precisely the pattern we have seen since Doctor Barborka appeared before the appropriations subcommittee a few years ago. His work and that of others here today has been

a tremendous asset to those of us who must weigh the evidence and decide upon national research investments. Actually, much of the credit for the award you have accorded me belongs to your association itself, because you helped make possible whatever I have done to deserve this citation.

Therefore, I must say that I can accept this award on one condition only: that we all pledge to continue to do our honest best to improve the support and conduct of the medical research which now, after centuries of darkness, is beginning to brighten the world health picture.