

Draft remarks--Cong. Fogarty
Lasker Awards presentation,
Am. Public Health Ass'n., 10/22/59
2nd General Session, Renaissance Rm.
Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, 8:30p.

I am deeply honored to have been chosen to receive one of the Albert Lasker Awards of the American Public Health Association.

I do not consider that this award is made to me, but rather through me to the American people and to the health professions that serve them. For, as a member of Congress who has been privileged to devote much of his time to matters affecting the Nation's health, I have been what the title of my office implies--a representative.

I have represent the wishes of the people of this country, who have seen the wisdom of new and expanded health programs; and I have represented the members of the health professions, who have joined efforts to achieve health gains that are unprecedented in any similar period of our country's history. On the subject of representation, I would like to say that each of those two groups has also been most adequately represented by our two speakers this evening, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Dr. John H. Dingle.

With deep humility, then, I accept the Lasker Award on behalf of the people and the professions. I do so acknowledging the unflagging, enlightened, public spirited contributions of the donor and her colleagues.

I shall always treasure the beautiful statuette that is identified with the Lasker Award and symbolizes victory over disease.

The check that accompanies the award is being deposited to the account of the Parents Council of the State of Rhode Island. It will be used to

finance a pilot study of what can be done among parents to give them a better understanding of mental retardation--to help them understand what mental retardation is and what it is not, to help them adjust to the special problems parents face if they have a retarded child, to help them know and use community resources so that the retarded child may have an opportunity to develop to the full extent of his capabilities.

The Parents Council has already been assured of the cooperation of Rhode Island's public and private agencies in carrying out this experiment in adult health education. I hope and believe that it will be a meaningful study and that the results will be of benefit to all parents and to society as a whole. It is also characteristic of many Public health research opportunities that exist today at the community level. Accidents, infections, alcoholism, juvenile delinquency, allergy, and mental illness are just a few of the problems that could be attracted through community based studies.

Once again, I wish to convey my thanks for the great honor that has been accorded me here. You may be sure that the symbol of the Lasker Award will be a constant reminder to me that there can be no let-up in the fight for improved public health. You may also be sure that I shall continue to do everything in my power to see that the health professions acquire the resources they must have to meet the needs of the people they serve.