

ADDRESS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT THE DEDICATION
OF GEORGE RESEARCH CENTER, RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL, OCTOBER 31, 1959

It is most gratifying to be with you today to witness the dedication of this fine structure to the high goals of medical science. These are the goals which all of us have fought for and to which I have devoted myself during my nineteen years in Congressional service for the people of Rhode Island and the Nation. Our ultimate hope for the health and happiness of all mankind lies just beyond the frontiers which research centers like this one are rolling back every day. To all of us who have long recognized the vital need for intensifying medical research it is a great satisfaction indeed to see such important additions as this to the Nation's research facilities.

It is particularly rewarding to find this new research center at one of the hospitals which has already contributed in large measure toward placing our State among the healthiest in the country. Moreover, the George Research Center is evidence of the

growing support of public-spirited citizens which is essential to achieving the research facilities, the teaching institutions, and the skilled scientific personnel we so urgently need. As to scientific manpower, I am sure we all recognize that this is unquestionably one of our greatest current problems, for without trained and talented investigators and practitioners, even the finest facilities will fall short of their full potential.

The plain truth of the matter is, however, that another equally great problem confronts us: the need for educational facilities. I have just received the report, issued this week, of the Consultant Group on Medical Education to the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, which urges the Public Health Service to assist in every way possible in meeting, among others, this paramount need of medical education, for more and better teaching facilities.

This group of consultants, after months of study, has concluded that possibly the greatest immediate obstacle to

expanding the nation's medical education capacity is the problem of financing needed physical facilities, particularly those for teaching as contrasted to research and hospital construction which have been Federally aided, as you know, quite substantially. Yet the teaching program which is basic to research and hospital care has not been aided. The consultants recommend in this new report that Federal support be given to constructing medical educational facilities.

I am especially happy to learn that this report agrees with what I have been striving to do for the past few years in the Congress. During that time I have introduced and fought for legislation which would provide appropriate federal aid, without control, for medical educational facilities. My bill in the present Congress, H.R. 6906, provides for federal appropriations over a period of the next ten years on a matching basis, to meet construction needs for medical education, including: expanding and improving existing schools, construction of new

2-year schools of basic medical sciences, construction of new 4-year medical, dental and public health schools and construction of the necessary teaching hospitals.

I have also strongly advocated federal educational grants-in-aid which the consultants report recommends. I believe that there should be federal educational grants-in-aid (scholarships) for medical students on the basis of merit and need, similar in value and proportionate in number to federal grants now made to graduate students in other fields of specialization (such as those of the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the Atomic Energy Commission for physical and biological sciences.) These educational grants would be available to students so that they could attend a medical school any place in the United States.

So you see that, even while I share with you this moment of achievement, I am troubled by the mounting teaching facilities and manpower problems which must be solved. This is not a groundless fear, as our findings of the past year will bear out. Eminently qualified medical educators have warned that unless we build about 20 medical schools in the next ten years the Nation faces a shortage of 3,000 physicians and 4,000 dentists by 1970 at the present rate of population growth. This was no simple estimate, but one based on a deliberate nationwide survey of medical teaching institutions. It showed, without a doubt, that the recognized need for research was accompanied by an urgent need for training more investigators and practitioners and teachers of medicine, and for additional facilities for medical education.

These are needs which I am confident, as I feel you are, that we can and must meet: the development of adequate numbers of scientific manpower for the health and research fields and the provision of critically needed teaching facilities.

Let me turn now to mention of the disease problems with which such splendid facilities as the George Research Center must deal. We all know, of course, that they are many and complex, and that the burden of cancer alone -- against which much fine work will be done here -- is truly staggering. Not a family, not a home throughout our land escapes being touched in some measure by the suffering, disability, death, or economic losses which cancer and the other great chronic illnesses cause. It is, therefore, particularly fitting that we dedicate here today to such a vital and personal need this new resource. By every such new addition to our armament against disease, just so much will the burden it imposes upon homes and families and individuals be alleviated. And I submit that the best possibility for the eventual control and elimination of this burden is through the sharing of all available resources toward a common goal. Already we have seen evidences of such sharing in the cooperative spirit so much a part of our R. I. institutions.

As an example, from the very beginning of planning, Brown

University through J. Walter Wilson and others has been consulted in regard to the development of the George Building and its program.

Later, Brown University through Doctor Glidden Brooks has been represented on a committee to develop the position of Director of Research for the cancer program and to find a suitable person to fill this position.

The University has signified its interest in the development of medical research in connection with Rhode Island hospitals and institutions through the formation, two years ago, of its Institute for Research in the Health Sciences. Brown University is now and has been for many years engaged in training scientists who have made or will make contributions in basic sciences related to health. Notable is the fundamental work in cancer research in Doctor Wilson's laboratory.

We all know that the Rhode Island Hospital occupies an enviable position in the post-graduate training of physicians. Funds for construction of additional research in teaching facilities and for personnel to work in them should make it possible for Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University to develop programs in medical education

of greater scope than heretofore contemplated. The question of a medical school in Providence has been debated repeatedly for more than a century. Two attributes were always regarded as necessary:

(1) That it be a program of high quality, and (2) that adequate funds be available to support it. If the report of the Bane Committee is implemented, such funds might become available. Both the Hospital and the University have already demonstrated their capacity for performance of high quality.

I hope that we will continue to develop here in Rhode Island all we need of all the kinds of facilities necessary to protecting and promoting our people's health, and I pledge myself to aiding in every possible way toward this end.

Now, as the George Research Center joins the research attack I know that its whole staff will apply their skills and imagination to develop knowledge which will help to weaken the strongholds of disease. I commend those concerned with this institution for their dedicated efforts and assure you that I am eager to hear of your

successes and stand ready, if I can aid in any way, to help you

to win them.

