

For radio, Tuesday, October 11, 1960

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

During the past 20 years the voters of the Second Congressional District in Rhode Island have given me the opportunity to serve them as their Representative in the Congress of the United States. In the fourteen years during which I have been either the chairman or the ranking minority member of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations ^{the Depts of Labor} for Health, Education, and Welfare, I have participated in many of the legislative actions by which the Democratic Party has proven itself to be the true party of progress. In seeking re-election this year, I am hopeful that on the basis of my record I will once again be permitted to work for the kind of legislation which is needed in these challenging and fast-moving times. If the Nineteen Sixties become a truly Democratic Decade, America will once again move forward to meet the challenges and opportunities of this era of scientific progress.

In the 20 years I have been in Congress, it has been my privilege to have been identified with a wide variety of measures which have helped to make America the leader of the world in health and every form of social welfare.

I am grateful indeed to those who have chosen me to be their Congressman in ten successive elections. I feel responsible to them to see to it that the magnificent progress we have made in medical research, public health, education, and welfare legislation goes forward and keeps pace with the expanding Scientific Sixties. The battle against disease, ignorance, and poverty is not yet won. I seek re-election in order that I may continue to fight these enemies of mankind on every possible front.

I have always believed that the greatest single resource of this or any other country is its people. That is why I have consistently urged increased government expenditures for such things as broadened medical research programs and other measures to meet human needs. Under the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration there has always been a regular pattern of resistance to growth in these areas. Each year the Administration has prepared budget requests that were geared to the past. Each year the Democratic Congress has rejected this "stand-still" policy.

In March of this year, for example, the Administration tried to cut federal grants to the states for tuberculosis control by \$1 million. That cut would have endangered the whole school tuberculin testing program developed here in Rhode Island by the Tuberculosis and Health Association in cooperation with the state health department. Cutbacks in research would have meant wasting valuable projects already underway and would have created a false sense of security in the public mind with respect to the control of a disease which still claims the lives of from 13 to 14 thousand Americans each year. Fortunately, the protests which came in from all over the country were of great help and I was able to obtain the needed appropriation.

We may rightly ask, What kind of economy is it which fails to appreciate the fact that health is everybody's business? Illness costs the people of this country a total of at least \$35 billion a year. The only way to lift this great economic burden is through medical research and its practical application. Our people generally are coming to see this. They see the benefits of modern medical knowledge and are prepared to spend tax dollars for improved research and education in medicine, nursing, and dentistry.

The Administration, however, seems to favor spending tax dollars for the benefit of moneylenders. In the last eight years it has promoted increased interest rates on the national debt to the tune of almost \$8.6 billion. And the Republicans have been trying to get Congress to increase this bankers' bonus at the same time that they have regularly resisted every effort to use more tax money for such things as health and medical research, which benefit the average citizen and serve no special financial interests.

The fact that in each of the last two years I have been able to win approval of my Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare budgets in Congress, in spite of the Administration's continued opposition, proves that the people have made it clear to their elected Representatives that they do not accept the Republican doctrine of high interest rates to benefit the few and so-called "economy" measures at the expense of the welfare of the majority.

The truth is that research leading to the prevention or quick treatment of disease actually saves untold millions in tax dollars and work hours. Between July 1957 and June 1958, for example, illness caused 599.1 million lost work days and an estimated loss in earnings of almost \$6 billion, or about two thirds the amount to be paid as interest on the public debt in 1960. At the present time the Federal government spends 0.5 per cent of the budget on medical research. Yet, in the past 15 years that same research has saved the lives of an estimated 1,800,000 people, whose combined earnings now amount to over \$3.6 billion, while their tax contribution to the Federal government comes to \$263 million per year.

I believe that the people of the Second Congressional District realize the human value of what their votes have made it possible for me to do. I also believe that they can appreciate the direct benefit to our state's economy which has resulted from my efforts to increase federal expenditures to save life and relieve suffering.

In the years 1959 through 1961, federal funds for hospital construction alone will bring over \$3 million to Rhode Island and will provide employment for an estimated 3200 Rhode Island people. Grants to the colleges and universities of the state for a wide variety of important medical scientific projects in the same period run to well over \$2 million, while NIH training grants and the construction of health research facilities will bring more than \$1 million more to our state. Since last year, I have secured approval of more than \$3 million in federal funds to add over 500 more beds to the hospital facilities of Rhode Island, to say nothing of additional thousands to aid in specific areas like T. B. control and mental health programs here.

If I am re-elected, I will continue to press forward in promoting more such expenditures for the benefit of our state and nation. It is disease and ignorance which are the real wasters, and the figures I cited prove that tax dollars spent to overcome these evils are a bulwark against economic decline and the needless loss of productive lives and talents.

The fast-changing pace of modern life calls for expanded medical research and health programs. A whole new field of what is called environmental health now opens before us, involving such things as the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. In this connection, I have sponsored legislation to put

the responsibility for protecting the country from the growing hazards of radiation in the hands of the Public Health Service. Such matters as the relation between air pollution and lung cancer, as well as the toxic properties of the almost 500 totally new chemicals that are being put into common use each year, require far more attention. They also call for re-organized and greatly expanded setups in both the Public Health Service and the Food and Drug Administration. Here, as in so many other areas, the Republican Administration has acted as if we were still living in the gas light era of the beginning of the century.

All of us today should be aware of the fact that the world is smaller than it was in the past. Scientific research knows no national boundaries and the ravages of disease know no politics. Medical scientists everywhere, working together, can help to promote peace. War, like Communism, breeds in disease as well as in poverty. I am, therefore, glad that, together with Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, I have been instrumental in gaining the passage of a Health-For-Peace bill, which will enable our medical scientists to work more effectively not only to advance their own research but also to participate in international enterprises in health research and training.

Efforts to get such a bill passed were opposed by the Eisenhower-Nixon forces. That I was able to help to overcome that opposition is not now so important to me as the future of the Health For Peace program. If re-elected, I intend to do all in

my pōwer to see to it that its purposes are carried out. Weapons of defense are, of course, essential. But the positive weapons of health can play a role of the highest importance in making the kind of world in which the disease of war cannot spread.

I would like to invite your attention to three more weekly broadcasts at this hour in which I will present other reasons why I feel justified in asking you to vote for me so that I may continue the work of 20 years for the health, education, and general welfare of the people of Rhode Island and all of America.

Thank you.