

**REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT THE
DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF HATTIE IDE CHAFFEE HOME AT PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND, JANUARY 22, 1960.**

I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to join in dedicating this splendid new addition to the Hattie Ide Chaffee Home. We have every right to be proud of this accomplishment, for it means that in Rhode Island we now have one of the most modern, well equipped facilities in the entire United States for the care of chronically ill persons.

Yet, my own feeling of pride on this occasion is somewhat tempered by the awareness that this fine hospital had to be enlarged to help meet a pressing medical problem--malignant disease. No one here needs to be reminded of the importance of cancer as a Nationwide and even worldwide health burden, and that there is much to be done before this burden will be lifted. It is in this spirit that the Chaffee Home is today embarking on a new path as a cancer research hospital.

Thanks to the vision and tireless efforts of Dr. Pitts, and the others who have worked so hard to make this new construction possible, the facilities we are dedicating today will enable the Chaffee Home to work closely with other Rhode Island medical institutions to find ways of controlling cancer and ultimately of putting an end to this, the second leading cause of death in the United States. Of course, the Hattie Ide Chaffee Home will continue in its original mission to provide the best possible care for persons afflicted with malignant disease.

As you know, in recent years I have had the privilege of serving as chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee responsible for

planning the annual Congressional appropriation to the Department of

Health, Education, and Welfare. This duty has made it possible for me to

As you know I
keep in close touch with people whose lives and careers are devoted to

solving the problem of cancer. These men and women are hopeful, but

cautiously so. They know that much of the mystery of cancer remains

to be solved. But, even though science has not yet unlocked the secret

of the cancer cell, she has given us many powerful weapons for use in the

war on cancer. Research has pointed out many cancer hazards--certain

chemicals and radiation, for example--that can be eliminated or controlled.

No one can say how many lives have been saved as a result of these

discoveries. Surgery and radiation therapy have been steadily improved so

that they now save the life of one out of every three persons who develop

malignant disease. In fact, there are more than a million persons now

living in this country who have been saved from cancer by treatment of

this kind.

Authorities in the cancer field, scientists and medical men, now

have the knowledge and skills necessary to save not just one out of every

three, but one out of two cancer patients, or 50 percent of all persons

who develop malignant disease, if all of them are diagnosed and treated

early. For the other 50 percent, hope lies in new knowledge to be gained

through research.

I cannot presume to talk about cancer research, for this is a

thoroughly complex inquiry that sometimes reaches to the very nature of

life itself. But I can tell you what is being done, especially by your

Government, to see that this research moves ahead as rapidly and as productively as possible toward its goal--the complete control of all cases of cancer, or even better, prevention of the disease.

Perhaps the chief thing the Government can do and has done to further research on cancer is create a climate in which scientists are able to explore every reasonable approach to the problem. To accomplish this, the United States Public Health Service, through the National Institutes of Health, is providing hundreds of millions of dollars annually to support medical research in Federal and non-Federal centers throughout the Nation. This year alone, the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health received an appropriation of more than \$91 million to conduct and support studies of the nature, cause and prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of malignant disease; to train physicians and research scientists; and to speed the application of effective measures for the control of cancer.

More than two-thirds of the Cancer Institute's appropriation is earmarked for grants and contracts to support research at medical centers, colleges and universities, other scientific institutions, and industrial concerns, both in this country and abroad. There are at present 13 National Cancer Institute grants valued at more than \$220,000 supporting the work of several investigators at medical institutions, here in Rhode Island.

The work of the National Cancer Institute and its grantees is producing a wealth of new information that one day might call a halt to the

seemingly relentless march of malignant disease. To me, one of the most fascinating lines being followed by these and other research scientists is aimed at learning whether cancer might be a virus disease, like polio for example. Scientists have not yet shown that any form of human cancer is caused by a virus, but they have found many kinds of animal tumors that result from virus infection. They think, therefore, that intensive work should be carried out to find an answer to this question.

Of course, I am keenly interested in this line of cancer research, not only because of my committee responsibilities in the Congress, but because I understand from discussions with authorities in the cancer field that virus research could point the way to vastly effective ways of preventing malignant disease. If human cancer is caused by a virus, it might be possible to develop a vaccine against the disease, and that certainly would be an immense leap forward in the struggle to wipe out cancer.

Early diagnosis of cancer often makes the difference between complete recovery and needless death, and it is for this reason that scientists are attempting to find reliable tests for early cancer. The Congress has been especially interested in diagnostic research, and a year ago, it advised the National Cancer Institute to begin a special program of work on cancer diagnostic tests. Officials of the Institute have been quite successful in organizing and setting up this program. Several studies have been launched to try to find ways of detecting cancer by a blood test or something of the sort.

There is one important fact about cancer diagnosis that many, many people and unfortunately some physicians fail to appreciate. Fully half of all cancers can be detected in a routine medical checkup. For instance, physicians now are able to detect cancer of the uterus, the second leading cause of death from cancer among women, as much as two or three years before the first symptom appears. They do this with the aid of a remarkable test developed a number of years ago by a Cornell University scientist and evaluated in thousands of women by the National Cancer Institute. One of the many studies to prove the reliability of this procedure, known as the cytologic test, was done here in Providence in cooperation with our own medical and health people. Medical statistics show that cancer of the uterus kills about 15,000 women in the United States every year. If every woman would make it a point to avail herself of this test at least once a year, the number of deaths from cancer of the uterus could dwindle virtually to the vanishing point. The women of this State and, of course, the local health authorities who conducted the Providence study, deserve our highest praise for their part in this magnificent program to reduce the loss of life from uterine cancer.

Some years ago, a group of newspaper editors was asked what headline would create the greatest excitement and interest among readers. Overwhelmingly they felt that the headline: "Cure for Cancer Found" would be the biggest attention getter. The editors may have been a little off in their knowledge of cancer, because both surgery and radiation already cure many thousands of cases. But their meaning was nonetheless clear.

They were talking about the finding of a drug that would cure cancer, a magic bullet for malignant disease. As we all know too well, that headline has never appeared, because there is no magic bullet for cancer. But there is hope, real hope based on years of research, that not one, but many cancer-curing drugs may be discovered.

Now under way in this country is perhaps the largest medical research program ever begun to find a solution to a single disease problem. It is the cancer chemotherapy national program whose objective is to find and put into use drugs that will control, or completely cure, malignant disease. The national program was begun in December of 1953, when the Congress instructed the National Cancer Institute to award a number of grants to several medical research centers to study the use of drugs in treating acute leukemia in children. The incentive to undertake these projects came from the fact that several drugs had already been developed that were able to control leukemia temporarily. In April 1955, the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center was established as part of the National Cancer Institute, and it was given the task of directing and coordinating this rapidly expanding activity.

Today, the search for effective anticancer drugs is being pressed forward in Government laboratories and hospitals, at colleges and universities, independent research institutions, and in the laboratories of private drug houses. With the guidance and support of the Chemotherapy Service Center, these various elements of the research community are carrying out a three-phase program, which consists essentially of testing thousands of different chemicals and other materials each year

against cancer in animals and then following the few that appear promising by further animal studies and finally, clinical trial. Right now, there are 109 drugs under investigation in clinical studies involving 7,700 patients in hospitals throughout the United States. Two chemotherapy studies are being conducted here in Rhode Island: one at the Rhode Island State Hospital is under the direction of Dr. George Coleman; and a second is in progress at the Veterans Administration hospital here in Providence under Dr. Harold W. Harrower.

Leaders in the field of cancer research, who ~~once~~ thought little of the possibility of treating the disease with drugs, are now frankly optimistic. Over the past 10 or 15 years, about 20 drugs have been found that provide temporary control of malignant disease. Sometimes the effect of drug treatment is dramatic; at other times only a slight improvement is seen. But the fact remains that scientists now know that cancer can be attacked by chemical means, and they believe that ways will be found to destroy completely all traces of malignancy by the use of drugs.

These are perhaps the most exciting fronts in today's battle to conquer malignant disease, but they are definitely not the whole story. Quietly, methodically, scientists are probing into the secret recesses of the cell, learning how it is born, how it lives and behaves, how it dies, and what goes wrong with it when cancer starts. Here, in what the scientists call basic research, the answers come slowly, but they are coming. A jigsaw puzzle is taking shape, and when the last piece is fitted in, doctors will know how to cope with cancer. It will take

time, and of course money, and perhaps most important of all, creative genius, the kind of genius that guided Hippocrates, Harvey, Pasteur, Fleming, and other of the world's great medical pioneers.

I think we in the United States are indeed fortunate to have a system of government under which scientists can work in freedom, and can obtain financial support to aid them in their endeavors. Such an environment surely will speed the march toward victory over disease. I assure you that I will do everything I can to see that this healthy, stimulating research environment is maintained. We can be proud of the results of medical research within the past few decades, and we can look ahead to still more remarkable accomplishments in the years to come.

No one can say when science will at last gain complete control over cancer. But think of the centuries during which nothing was known of how to diagnose or treat the disease with any real hope of success. Today, through research, the way is open to solution of the cancer problem, and it, too, will undoubtedly yield just as have the infectious diseases that once claimed millions of lives year after year.

I am proud to be associated with such a worthy endeavor and grateful for the opportunity to cooperate with the outstanding people of Providence who have made the Chaffee Home the fine facility it is. Your work here symbolizes the growing spirit of hope and dedication that will one day signal the conquest of malignant disease.