

Remarks by Rep. John E. Fogarty (D) R.I.
at Dedication of Division of Biologics
Standards Building, National Institutes
of Health, Bethesda, Md.
Thursday p.m., June 30, 1960

In Dr. Shannon's first appearance as Director of the National Institutes of Health before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations which I am privileged to chair, he brought to our committee convincing testimony of the important work being carried on in establishing standards for and the licensing of manufacturers and the individual products which they produce.

That presentation, just four years ago, brought to the attention of the committee the accomplishments and expanding responsibilities of the newly formed Division of Biologics Standards. I was particularly impressed with the explanation of the ever-expanding range of diseases to which biological products may be applicable and of the kinds of new biological products -- particularly in the field of virology -- that seem to be destined to emerge in the future.

As I look back now, it was almost prophetic that Dr. Shannon should have pointed up the oft-times unrecognized function -- the research function -- of the Division of Biologics Standards. During the period that this building was being planned and constructed, the Division, -- despite its cramped quarters and limited laboratory facilities -- has not only continued to meet its responsibilities for seeing that only safe and pure vaccines and other biologicals reach the public, but it has brought into being a basic and developmental research program

that has produced many significant results. For example, the Division overcame numerous technical problems to develop standards for and clear for release the new vaccine required to combat the Asian strain of influenza some three years ago. At about the same time, the Division, working with members of the National Cancer Institute, had isolated a virus-like agent from mouse tumors. This is now acclaimed in the scientific world as the SE Polyoma Virus. The initials of the name are taken from the names of the two scientists who have led these studies, Dr. Stewart and Dr. Eddy. Their further findings and the findings of others working in the field will undoubtedly hasten the day when it will be possible for man to control cancer.

I could mention many, many more examples of work that has been done in such areas as tissue culture, new potency tests, basic findings in blood serum -- work affecting the lives of people in this country and in other parts of the world and involving such diseases as smallpox, measles, hepatitis, cholera, and influenza.

Dr. Shannon, Dr. Smadel, Dr. Murray and others in the Public Health Service are to be commended for their vision and foresight in developing this fine organization and bringing into being this beautiful facility dedicated to the improvement of the health of the people.

And so it is a particular pleasure for me to take part in these dedication ceremonies; doubly so because I had the privilege of helping to make available the necessary funds through the Congress that made

this most worthwhile project possible. I am confident that this new building and its modern facilities -- coupled with the most important resource of the Division of Biologics Standards, its highly trained and competent staff -- will help enable the Public Health Service to achieve even greater heights in its goal to improve the health of the people.