

Remarks

John E. Fogarty
Dedication of Emma Pendleton
Bradley Hospital Recreation
Therapy Building
Thursday evening, Sept. 29, 1960
Riverside, Rhode Island

I am very happy to be here with you this evening. I feel honored, moreover, to have been asked by Dr. Laufer to represent and speak on behalf of the National Advisory Board of the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital.

I want to begin by telling you a story. It is a very serious story about dedicated men and women of science, some of whom we know as friends and coworkers, and about forward-looking medical institutions, some of which we call our own.

For four years now--including two and a half years of intensive preparation--a long-term research attack has been getting under way to seek out the causes of cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and other neurological and sensory disorders of infancy and childhood--disorders which afflict one in every 16 children born annually in the United States. The hope is that this knowledge will make it possible to prevent such disorders and thereby enable every child to lead a full and useful life.

Some 50,000 expectant mothers will voluntarily take part in this study and their children will be observed, examined, and tested until they reach school age.

Cooperating with the Public Health Service in this vast study are 15 medical centers in 12 cities across the nation. The yearly cost of the study is but a fraction of what these disorders cost the American

people each year in lost wages, medical expenses, and public assistance funds--not to mention the suffering and heartbreak to the individuals and families involved.

As I am proud to be chairman of the appropriations subcommittee in the House of Representatives which is responsible for the review *of* this study, as well as all other Public Health Service supported medical research, so all of us here should be proud to know that Providence, Rhode Island, is one of the cities where the study is being carried out.

Now why was Providence chosen as one of the study sites? I am sure it was chosen because our State and its capital city have for many years led in the fight against disease and disability.

Providence was chosen, moreover, because there are people and institutions here like Drs. Walter S. Jones, William Reid, William MacDonald, George W. Anderson, and Harmon P. B. Jordan, of Providence Lying-In Hospital; Oliver J. Pratt and Dr. Vincent Zecchino, of the Rhode Island Hospital; Margaret Langdon and Drs. Eric Denhoff, Raymond Holden, and Gerald Solomons, of the Meeting Street School; Dr. I. Herbert Scheffer, of Miriam Hospital; Mildred Hatton, of the Providence District Nursing Association; Drs. Barnaby C. Keeney, J. Walter Wilson, and Glidden Brooks, of Brown University; and because there are men and institutions here like Dr. Maurice W. Laufer, of the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital. All of them and a host of others are playing or are planning to play an important role in the Providence Child Development Study.

I have told you this story because the beautiful building that we are dedicating here this evening stands as a symbol of the foresight that has made Providence a leader in the field of medical research.

But this new recreational therapy building symbolizes many other things.

In constructing this building, the men and women who direct the affairs of the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital have shown that they are not content to rest on the reputation that 30 years of leadership in the fight against nervous disorders of childhood has given them.

They have shown, moreover, that they recognize the importance of play in the treatment and rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed or neurologically handicapped children.

And they have shown how private institutions, endowed by generous and humanitarian individuals like Mr. and Mrs. George L. Bradley, can, with some support from an enlightened Federal Government, help fill the serious gap in our medical resources.

In naming this addition to the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital the "Arthur H. Ruggles Building," you have wisely chosen to honor one of Rhode Island's most illustrious sons. If any one man can be called the "guiding spirit of the pioneering effort" represented by the opening of this hospital, that man is Dr. Arthur H. Ruggles, who took on the challenging position of first superintendent even though he was already superintendent of the Butler Hospital, Chairman of the Scottish Rite Masonic Committee on Dementia Praecox, and a teacher at Yale University. Dr. Ruggles, your life as a healer, teacher, and leader of men will always inspire us, your friends and coworkers, and will, I am sure, serve others as a model for years to come.

With this additional resource, we now move one step closer to a full acceptance of the challenge for better health that lies ahead--a challenge that all of us share as citizens of a nation that has already charted high standards of health. In fact, I believe there are 2 challenges that lie ahead of us in the search for better health.

First, we must find ways to bring more effectively, and to more people, the benefits of today's knowledge in the prevention, control, and treatment of disease.

Second, we must acquire new knowledge. Great walls of ignorance surround many of the diseases that cripple or prematurely kill us. These walls must be torn down and destroyed.

How, as a nation, can we reach toward the goal of better health?

We can do it by giving our support, both as individuals and as groups, to those actions and measures which represent expansion and improvement in medical and public health practice. What is involved here is more physicians, more widely distributed, to care for our growing population; modern hospitals and other medical facilities, carefully placed geographically to assure their availability to all who are in need of care; health and welfare plans which permit the best in medical care to be available to the individual without regard to his economic status; carefully designed and executed public health programs which protect the community against illness; specific measures to meet the health needs of the aged and to protect against the heavy burden of long and costly illness. Portions of such programs should be and are being carried out by action, both public and private, at the national and State

levels. But the community itself is at the heart of all programs with the objective of applying today's knowledge in the prevention and treatment of disease.

The other factor in the equation for better health is the acquisition of new knowledge through medical research. I am proud to say, as I look back over the record of this and preceding years, that in its support of medical research the Congress has clearly acted in a manner that is responsive to a primary goal set by the people. And I am particularly proud that I have been privileged to have a key role in establishing the size and defining the nature of these Federal programs.

We have sought to strengthen medical research in this country both by increasing support of today's researchers so that there may be full and effective use of the people and other resources now available, and by training young investigators and building new research facilities so that an even stronger medical research program can be carried out in the years ahead.

When the people establish their goals in a democracy and work toward the realization of these goals, they have something that is very specific, practical, and immediate in mind. In this instance, it is not the abstraction of "better health" that the people want. Rather, they want such things as freedom from the dread of cancer, from the fear of death from heart attacks, from the agonies of crippling arthritis, from the life-long disabilities associated with diseases of neurological origin, from temporary or permanent illness of the mind. They particularly want

children to have every chance for normal birth and a youth free from disease that impairs or retards normal growth. And for adults, both young and old, they want not so much the simple extension of the life span, but rather the opportunity for happy and productive life without the ravages of crippling disease or the tragedy of premature death.

And so as we dedicate this fine new facility to the cause for which it was created, we must accept an over-riding and greater challenge that faces you and me and the citizens of this great State and of our nation. That is the challenge to work continuously, each in our own sphere, for the improvement of health of all mankind.

I know that each of you will strive to meet that challenge in the days and years ahead. I can assure you that I shall continue to devote my efforts to meeting that great and vital challenge.