

Congressman John E. Fogarty  
R.I. State Operating Room  
Nurses Association  
Providence, R.I., Nov. 21, 1961

Coming here to speak to you this evening gives me pleasure in a number of ways. First of all, it was just a little over a year ago that I took part in the dedication ceremonies of the new Surgical Pavilion here.

Another gratification is the honor you have bestowed upon me in inviting me to be your speaker. My respect for the nursing profession is a very deep and sincere one, and I am honored when I am given an opportunity to speak to any group of nurses -- but most especially to a relatively new, but very vital one, such as yours.

Then there is my continuing pleasure at being of help in any way I can to the health profession because I must admit just a trace of envy of all those who have an opportunity to work directly with the people who need health and medical services. Obviously, it is not possible for all of us who are interested in health and medical research to have such a personal and direct contact with suffering people. Personally, however, I have always derived a great deal of satisfaction in working for national programs that are enabling the health professions to do the greatest job in the history of this country.

In the 20 years that I have served the people of Rhode Island as Representative of the 2nd District, I have been especially mindful of the total responsibility and trust which has been given to me. For the majority of these 20 years, I have had a second -- and equally important responsibility -- as chairman of the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations for the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Each year, this committee -- among other things -- helps to determine the levels of the Federal medical research effort throughout the country. Now this may not strike you, on first hearing of it, as a very exciting assignment. But I can assure you that it is -- exciting, demanding, and very satisfying. Here, the health needs of the nation are studied in the greatest detail, and every effort is made to bring the country's health resources up to the levels wanted and needed by the people.

You and I are fortunate indeed to be working in the fast developing field of health and medical research. It is an exciting field. Our people are living longer. Thirty years ago life expectancy in this country was 59 years, and today it is ~~60~~<sup>70</sup><sub>2</sub> years. Fifteen years ago, five per cent of our people were 65 years old; today the proportion of people in that age group is 8.6 per cent. Consequently, the field of geriatrics is relatively new, but it is developing rapidly to take care of this growing segment of our population. I am confident that within the next decade the average remaining lifetime at age 65 will be extended by about two years -- and will continue to increase as we devote more of our resources to research and to application of the knowledge that emerges from it.

Remarkable progress in combating the killing and crippling diseases has been made in relatively few years, and we are on the brink of many new and thrilling medical discoveries.

Consider some of these recent advances -- discoveries that would certainly astonish your predecessors of a generation ago:

....Cortisone and other steroids have been developed for treatment of rheumatic disease.

....We already have vaccines for the prevention of polio and influenza; and we are very close to similar controls for many upper class respiratory infections and for measles.

....Radioisotopes have joined other radiation sources and surgery as a means of treating cancer, and a number of chemical compounds either arrest or ameliorate certain forms of cancer.

....Just recently you may have heard of the early success of chemical therapy in conjunction with breast surgery for cancer.

....We have seen the development and widespread use of an inexpensive public health measure that can cut tooth decay in half.

....A wide array of chemical weapons have been discovered and are being tested in the management of high blood pressure.

....Dramatic improvement has been made in surgery for congenital heart malformations and hearts damaged by rheumatic fever.

....A test for early diagnosis of a form of cancer in women, permitting treatment before it is too late, has been developed and given wide application.

....A whole family of drugs permits startling advances in the management of mental illness.

Many of these advances have come about because of what has happened in this country in the past 15 or 20 years to meet the needs and take advantage of the opportunities for better health through medical research. Made aware of the situation, our citizens have clearly indicated a willingness to pay for research, for the expansion and improvement of health facilities--research laboratories and hospitals, for training more men and women to do research.

As an illustration of the growth of Federal support for biomedical research over the past few years, let me give you a few figures. In 1946, a little over \$780 thousand was appropriated by the Congress to support 50 research projects. Now, 15 years later, the budget contains almost \$336 million for the support of about 12,000 research projects in nearly every non-profit research center in the country. Take another example. Funds for training men and women in medical research have increased over the last 15 years from a meager \$40,000 to almost \$148 million in Fiscal Year 1962. These funds have provided training opportunities--fellowships, traineeships, training grants--for thousands of bright young people who are today making great contributions to our fund of health knowledge and who have the potential for even greater things in the months and years ahead.

With the current and anticipated growth of research manpower, and with the growing numbers of Americans needing varied types of medical care, the need has increased for medical research facilities-- hospitals, laboratories, training centers. Consequently, an appropriation of \$30 million has been made annually for the past five years for the Health

Research Facilities construction program. This program has been so successful and has stimulated private efforts to such an extent that the level has been increased to \$50 million. As in the past, the allotted sums will be matched by the locally raised funds.

This represents true progress. We in Congress have been working hard to get these levels raised meaningfully. We have been grasping the opportunities and we feel we have been meeting the needs -- but now, today, there is a move on in Washington to cut these funds by \$60 million. From what I can determine, this will mean that at least \$25 million will be cut from research projects, and the program to develop clinical research centers will suffer to the extent of \$15 million. Over \$10 million will be held back from the training of research scientists for tomorrow, and more than \$7 million will be cut from the National Institutes of Health's own direct operations. This is not progress.

I want the people of my home State to know that I vigorously protested this proposal when I spoke at the 2nd National Cancer Chemotherapy Conference in Washington <sup>recently</sup> ~~last Friday~~. In addition, I sent telegrams of protest to the President and to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Abraham Ribicoff.

I have been heartened by the President's personal interest in health and medical research, and I believe he is most serious in his efforts to increase the amount of work being done in biomedical research.

I am confident that when the President has full knowledge of the facts, he will take steps to make sure that these funds -- which were voted by the Congress only after the most critical appraisal of the needs -- will be made available for the benefit of people throughout the nation.

These are some of my reactions to any proposals for cuts in our outlays for research and related activities. Those of you who bring health services directly to the people have an opportunity to see first hand the needs for more research, new knowledge, better facilities, and modern equipment. Many of our country's hospitals are over 50 years old, and many suffer from loss of efficiency because of inadequate physical plants. Two percent of our general hospital beds become obsolete each year, representing an annual loss of approximately 9,500 general hospital beds. Added to this, we need 30,000 new beds each year merely to keep pace with our annual population increase.

To bring all of our hospitals up to date at once would probably mean an all-out crash program, leaving behind for a time all of the other types of construction -- schools, roads, and so forth -- and reducing many other important Federal projects. This, of course, is not possible. But great progress, has been made, nevertheless, as a result of the Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946, better known as the Hill-Burton program. This program helps the States to supply their citizens with needed facilities for adequate hospital and medical services, and also assists the States to utilize their existing health services and facilities to better advantage. I would like to take a few moments to bring you up-to-date on this program. As you

may know, all types of hospitals, public health centers, diagnostic and treatment centers, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, State health laboratories, and nurses' training facilities are eligible for assistance.

The Hospital and Medical Facility Program consists of two phases: the survey or planning stage, and the actual construction. Here in Rhode Island the Department of Health is the administrator. When it approves a project, based on a study of community need and development of a Statewide plan for such facilities, the institution concerned may apply for Federal funds on a matching basis in support of its construction project. Federal funds may be given as an outright grant or as a long-term loan, depending upon the requirements of the institution requesting them.

By the end of last December, 5,390 projects had been undertaken and the estimated cost of these new facilities, or improvements in existing structures, amounted to more than four and a half billion dollars. The Federal share of these funds includes a little more than one-third of the total. These improvements and additions supplied 226,842 beds in 1,496 units. However, though there is a total of more than a million available hospital beds, this number is one million short of the need.

In Rhode Island alone, more than \$943 thousand was allocated for the construction of hospital and medical facilities in the Fiscal Year ending last June. Over the past few years, our State has made tremendous progress in establishing itself as something of a health center. I could mention the recent addition here of Our Lady of Fatima, the new Hattie I. Chaffee Nursing Home in East Providence, the Butler Health Center, the rehabilitation facilities at the Rhode Island Hospital, and rehabilitation centers at the State Hospital in Cranston and at the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital at Riverside.

These, and more, are examples of how our people here in Rhode Island have been taking advantage of the opportunities to meet the needs for modern facilities to care for its ill and afflicted.

Our scientific investigators in their fight against disease and death, are also attracting support for improvement of health research facilities. For example, Brown University won a grant to construct a psychology research building and a biology research building; the University of Rhode Island received \$14,000 for a biology research laboratory; and the Rhode Island Hospital received funds for its cancer research facility.

Rhode Island is in the lead in establishing and developing a most interesting and vital long-term research attack 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 investigators hope that the knowledge they gain will make it possible to prevent such disorders, and eventually enable every child to lead a full and useful life.

Expectant mothers -- eventually 50,000 of them -- will voluntarily take part in this study. During the mother's pregnancy and the child's life from birth until school age, conditions surrounding the child will be recorded, and the children themselves will be observed, examined, and tested. Brown University is one of the 16 leading hospitals or medical centers in the country collaborating on this project. I am proud and happy to say that six Rhode Island hospitals and centers are cooperating with the Brown University staff to gather information -- Providence Lying-In, Providence District Nursing Association, the Emma Pendleton Bradley



Hospital, the Meeting Street School, the Miriam Hospital, and the Rhode Island Hospital. All of these institutions are working with medical centers throughout the country as well as with the National Institutes of Health. Not only our children, here in Rhode Island, but children throughout the nation will share in the benefits that are certain to emerge from this study. It is more than possible that some of you are contributing data to this vitally important investigation, and I am sure you are aware of the part you are playing in this great undertaking.

Yes, Rhode Island is definitely becoming a center for health and research activities. In Fiscal Year 1960 there were 43 grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health for research projects in such places as Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital, Providence College, the State Department of Social Welfare, and others. The total dollar figure for these grants amounted to almost \$1,200,000. The range of investigations covered by these grants is broad-- pharmacology, sanitary engineering, sensory diseases, behavioral sciences, cell biology, cancer chemotherapy, hematology, and more -- a host of subjects revealing the breadth of interest and the scope of the abilities of our people and our institutions here in the State.

I think you can begin to see, now, why I told you earlier that I consider my Committee assignment to be exciting, demanding, and satisfying. To me, there are few greater satisfactions than seeing my efforts translated into better hospitals, better health centers, more scientists studying the causes and treatments of the diseases that threaten us -- and better health, strength, and vitality for our great nation.

If these efforts are to be truly meaningful, I find that I must

continually be aware of the needs of the people, of the present state of biomedical research, of hospital facilities and construction, of the opportunities and needs for training, and of many more areas. I find that meetings with groups such as yours are of great value in maintaining my awareness of the attitudes, hopes, and aspirations of those who provide care and comfort for the ill.

Through groups such as yours, I shall continue to search for the best means of meeting the health needs of the people and to carry on the fight to translate these needs into law.

You and I are indeed fortunate. In our individual ways, we have opportunities to improve the health of the people. I know that the progress that you as an organized group have made is only a start for what you can accomplish in the years ahead. In these years, I look forward to a continued association with you as individuals and as a group. I earnestly solicit your advice, your ideas, and your support as they relate to my Job; and I can assure you that you have my wholehearted support in behalf of your efforts.