

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS,  
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND, ON OCTOBER 16, 1962

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen:

In the 22 years that I have served as Congressman, I have had the privilege of being closely associated with the legislation dealing with the needs of youth. It is about some of those needs that I would like to talk with you this morning.

These are stirring and exciting times in which to grow up. The eyes of the world are turned to the sky, and it is our young people who will have the great adventure of pushing the exploration of space far beyond the wonderful achievements of our fine astronauts of today. In many other areas of human knowledge, research is going forward far faster than most of us can imagine. The possibilities of progress are unlimited.

Yet along with our great hopes we have equally great responsibilities. The young person of today faces many complexities and seeks to find his right vocation amid a bewildering array of dangers, as well as opportunities. Most of our young people are facing the

challenge of our times remarkably well. The picture of American youth is full of promise.

But for some, that picture has a dark side, which we cannot afford to overlook or to minimize. For example, it is estimated that 4 million children will be brought before the courts in the next decade if the present trend is not reversed. At present the nation is spending about \$4 billion dollars to pay the cost of youthful delinquency every year. But this staggering sum is hardly the measure of the wast and malformation of young lives which is involved.

Recognizing this fact of modern life, the 87th Congress passed legislation appropriating \$30 million for a three year period to supply federal grants for projects to demonstrate and evaluate methods of dealing with delinquency, as well as to help to train people to undertake preventative and counselling work.

When that measure was temporarily by-passed in the House last year, I made it my special concern to see to it that it would be brought out of committee. In spite of the heavy docket of legislation which had to

be considered, I believed that nothing should stand in the way of taking action on behalf of this vital measure. I am happy to be able to report to you that I was instrumental in its final passage.

The benefits of this action will, I feel confident, be felt as much here in Rhode Island as in other parts of the nation. Plans for a program to combat juvenile delinquency in a section of Providence are well developed and others will follow. Youth Progress Boards will begin their work and the results will be carefully studied.

In this connection I would like to call your attention to a grant which I was able to announce in July of this year. This grant provides \$66,400 for the Rhode Island division of vocational rehabilitation to reach junior and senior high school students who are about to drop out of school. A national unemployment rate of 21 percent exists for youths between the ages of 16 and 21 years of age. In some cities that figure is as high as 70 per cent. Since the unemployed, untrained, inexperienced youth is one of the major sources of delinquency, it is evident that vocational guidance to prevent drop outs is a practical

means of meeting at least one major aspect of the delinquency problem as a whole.

I think that you will agree that there is a lot of truth in the old saying that "Idleness is the devil's workshop." In asking you to cast your votes for me in November, I am asking you to allow me to continue my efforts to see to it that the devil's workshop of unemployed youth is closed in Rhode Island.

The loss of young talent as a result of school drop outs is, of course, but one of the many issues facing American education today. I have been especially concerned about those young men and women who like to enter the medical and dental professions, but find the costs prohibitive. It is alarming to learn that a recent national study clearly shows that the number of applicants for medical schools has declined by about one-third in the last ten years. It is generally agreed that one of the major reasons for this drop, at a time when our population is rising, is the high cost of medical education. The average cost of four years of medical school is in the neighborhood of \$12,000, and the number of those who can afford such an investment is

very limited.

For that reason, I have sponsored a bill to provide federal-state scholarship grants in the field of medical education. This is in addition to bills which I have introduced to help medical and dental schools to meet operating and construction costs. It is my intention to continue to press for the passage of these and similar measures. In spite of Mr. Nixon's campaign promises of Republican support for medical scholarships, it has not been forthcoming, and it will take a lot of hard work to make such a program a future reality.

The achievements along the broad educational front in the recent past have been marked. The National Defense Education Act, which I strongly supported, has not only helped higher education; it has brought about a marked improvement in the teaching of science, modern languages, and mathematics in our high schools. I do not share the views of the extreme critics of American education, but I know that constant work and constant vigilance are needed if the present improvement is to continue.

Local educational needs, for example, might have been badly neglected, and a real injustice done to Rhode Island communities, if the Congress had not voted to restore \$50 million that was temporarily cut from the budget for federal allotments to school districts with a high proportion of children from the families of federal employees. The House appropriations sub-committee of which I am the chairman recommended the restoration of these funds. The result was that 21 Rhode Island communities will share in the full \$1,850,000 to which they are lawfully entitled, instead of having to face the problems which would have resulted if they had received \$1,500,000 under the cut proposal.

Here in Rhode Island we have a number of institutions of higher learning, both public and private. We are justly proud of these colleges and universities. Yet, if they are to maintain their present levels of excellence, and go forward, they are clearly going to need help, especially in the matter of the construction of library facilities and buildings for scientific and engineering research and instruction.

Ten years from now, the enrollments in America's colleges and universities will be doubled. New construction is running to about \$1,500,000,000 every year. There is no sector of business, professional life, industry, or science which does not depend upon a steady and growing supply of trained college and university graduates. To meet this need, American higher education has always depended as much on private institutions as on those under public control. There can be no question of dividing the scholarly community into the public and private categories, when it is a matter of improved facilities for libraries, science, and technology.

For these reasons, I supported the higher education bill in the 87th Congress and will continue to do so if I am re-elected. Grants and loans to colleges and universities provided under that bill are needed, not only for the welfare of youth but for the needs of the economy and the national defense. Past experience with grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, such as I have helped to bring to Rhode Island colleges and universities,

shows that this help can be given without infringing upon academic liberties or local control.

I am confident that your concern for our youth is every bit as great as my own. In that confidence, I feel justified in asking for your votes to enable me to go on promoting legislation in behalf of those who will hold the future in their hands.

Thank you.