

Congressman Fogarty 10-6-62
Dedication of new Science Building
St. Francis College, Loretto, Pennsylvania

I am very happy to be here with you today at the dedication of this splendid new science building. I feel honored to have been asked by Father Loncosky to take part in such a significant event in the life of this college.

As you all are well aware, to be most effective, our representative form of government requires the intelligent participation of a large percentage of its citizens. And as our culture continues to increase in complexity, both technologically and socially, intelligent participation demands of us all a far broader base of general knowledge than ever before. It is just such a broad foundation--in the social, physical and biological sciences, in mathematics, and in the humanities and the arts and their interrelationships--that this college and other liberal arts institutions are attempting to provide. And in so doing, they are helping to provide both the intelligent leadership and the informed citizenry on which the future preservation and improvement of our free institutions rest.

In stressing the important contributions that informed citizens can make to responsible government, I can speak from personal experience as a lawmaker. For more than 20 years, I have served the people of my district in Rhode Island as their representative to the Congress of the United States. During the majority of this time, I have also had the privilege of serving as chairman of the House Subcommittee charged

with the responsibility for reviewing the Federal appropriations for most of this Nation's health and medical agencies.

Every year, as the members of this subcommittee conduct hearings on the appropriations for the coming year, we hear reports of progress that is being made in medical research and in the application of this research to the treatment of human disease and disability. And every year I am both encouraged and impressed by the strong support that the citizens of this country continue to give to efforts to solve the health problems of this country and of millions of people throughout the world.

As a result of this support, Congress has made increasing amounts of Federal funds available, primarily through the U.S. Public Health Service's National Institutes of Health, for the support of medical research in private laboratories, in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions.

This progressive expansion, which had its beginning in the period following World War II, is already producing very substantial results. I refer particularly to such advances as the discovery and development of synthetic hormones and related drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

The development of vaccines for the prevention of polio and of influenza, and indications that we will soon have similar controls for measles and for upper respiratory tract diseases.....

Advances in heart surgery, aided by heart-lung machines and better diagnosis of heart defects....

The new oral antidiabetic drugs....

Tranquilizers and drugs for the treatment of mental depression....

Development of a test for early diagnosis of one form of cancer in women that permits treatment before it is too late....

Development of chemical agents to control high blood pressure....

Increasing utilization of radioisotopes as a means of treating cancer, and the development of chemical compounds that delay for a time the progress of certain forms of cancer.

At the same time, I feel that it has become clear to all of us that the battle against such diseases as cancer, multiple sclerosis, heart disease and mental retardation is going to be a long, hard fight. There is not likely to be a "cure" for any of these disorders next year, and probably not the year after that. Instead, progress will come in small steps, in unspectacular accomplishments, and sometimes in areas seemingly unrelated to a particular disease....

Such as better knowledge about the intimate processes of the living cell....

Additional information about the way in which muscle fibers contract....

Or a further unraveling of the genetic code that dictates our metabolic inheritance as well as our physical appearance.

Such research is basic to our understanding of man's life processes, normal and abnormal. It has become the keystone of our national medical research effort today. And therefore I find it both encouraging and satisfying that informed citizens throughout this country are coming to appreciate the value of such work and to support efforts to increase

the funds devoted to it.

But if the increased pace of research is to be maintained in the years to come, we are going to need more than money. We are going to need more and better trained scientists, physicians, and allied personnel who are capable of doing outstanding work in medical and health fields. A recent survey made by the National Institutes of Health at the request of Congress shows that by 1970 this country will need twice as many trained investigators as it has working in medical research today.

This need was recognized a number of years ago by Congress, which tried to help insure that more trained scientists and physicians and the necessary supporting personnel would be available by providing Federal funds for research fellowships and traineeships. Through training grants, institutions all across this country have been able to establish and improve their research and special training programs, and thousands of bright young men and women in medical research have improved their skills and increased their knowledge. Today they are making great contributions to our fund of health knowledge, and have the potential for even greater things in the months and years ahead. It is quite possible that among them have been graduates of this college who have gone on to take advanced training in medicine or one of the other scientific fields, as I hope some of the students here today will do.

In addition to supporting medical research, and training, Congress has also allocated funds to build facilities for health-

related research. Since 1957, Health Research Facilities Construction funds have been made available to 323 institutions in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, for the construction of over 700 laboratories, many similar to the ones in this fine building we are dedicating here today.

In such laboratories the medical advances of tomorrow will be made possible . I hope that those of you who will work and study in this new building will someday take a part in this national effort to defeat disease and disability, and will join in the continuing fight for better health and longer life for all people everywhere.

Thank you.