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John Edward Fogarty

When John Fogarty entered Congress in 1941, at the age of 27, his background included a high school education and 10 years as a brick-layer and union official. At his death, on 10 January, he was highly respected for his knowledge of many aspects of public health and his effectiveness in fostering medical research. He had received more than 100 awards, including many honorary degrees.

Representative Fogarty began service on the Labor and Federal Security Agency Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee in 1947 and became subcommittee chairman in 1949. In the first year of his service on the subcommittee, the total budget of the National Institutes of Health was about \$3 million. In the current year the NIH budget approximates \$1.4 billion. Accomplishing this great expansion was not easy. Traditionally the Appropriations Committee seeks to hold down expenditures. Often Fogarty placed his career in jeopardy by clashing with the committee chairman, then Clarence Cannon.

Fogarty never wavered in his belief in the value of medical research, and he fostered its expansion with single-minded zeal. His resources included great energy and unusual political sagacity. Reports of the hearings of his subcommittee reveal a master craftsman at work patiently building an extraordinarily good case for expanded support of medical research. In his efforts Fogarty had an effective partner in Senator Lister Hill. On occasions when House leadership succeeded in thwarting Fogarty, Senator Hill obtained support for increased appropriations in the Senate. Other important allies were James Shannon (director of NIH), Mary Lasker, and the medical research community. Possessing a combination of charm, brains, energy, and money, Mrs. Lasker has had access to all recent Presidents and can mobilize important support for medical research. From the medical community Fogarty could depend on such well-known expert witnesses as Paul Dudley White, Karl Menninger, Sidney Farber, and Michael De Bakey.

Fogarty built skillfully and well. He understood the vital relationship between the support of fundamental science and practical objectives. He built for permanence. His methodical care year after year won for him and the programs he fostered broad support in Congress. The *Congressional Record* for 19 January 1967 provides an indication of the respect he enjoyed. Tributes to him by more than 100 of his colleagues are recorded there. Many of the words of praise are devoted to the enduring value of his efforts in expanding medical research.

There is considerable sentiment in Congress to implement an idea that Fogarty advanced in September 1963:

... I should like to see a plan to bring into being at Bethesda a great international center for research in biology and medicine dedicated to international cooperation and collaboration in the interests of the health of mankind as so boldly envisaged by the President. This center would encompass conference facilities, laboratory and study space, and living quarters to permit the assembly for discussion, study, and research of the outstanding health scientists of the world. I visualize this center associated with the great facilities of the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine as representing the visible and tangible embodiment of this Nation's devotion to the use of science for peaceful purposes and the good of mankind.

Congressman Laird (R-Wis.), on 18 January 1967, spoke for many Congressmen (and scientists) when he stated, "I can think of no more fitting and lasting tribute to this great humanitarian than the establishment by this Congress of such a center—the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences. Not only will such an institution be a living embodiment of the spirit and aspirations of John Fogarty, but it will serve a needed and valuable role in securing the progress of science in the cause of the well being of all mankind."

—PHILIP H. ABELSON