

Mr. Fogarty stated on the floor of the House :

In spite of a long history of proposals and the introduction of bills by Members of Congress, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness was not established by law until August 1950, and even then we did not see fit to activate this Institute by appropriation until the current year.

When finally we did make funds available, the budget of \$1,137,400 was less than was recommended by the most conservative medical authorities for research alone into just one of the major neurological diseases.

Let us no longer procrastinate in giving this Institute a working program in fact as well as in name. Let me remind you that our procrastination has not gone unobserved, and there is already evidence of doubt concerning the Government's willingness to serve the just needs of those for whom this Institute was established.

Mr. Fogarty then discussed the matter with his opposite number in the Senate, the Honorable Dennis Chavez of New Mexico.

They agreed that the Institute would never be able to flourish under this arrangement.

They said it would have to be liberated from the NIH operating expenses and put in the budget as a line item in its own right.

They told the Bureau of the Budget that if this were not done voluntarily they would break the item out themselves beginning with Mr. Fogarty when he brought the bill up in committee the following year.

Senator Chavez said he would do the same thing. The Bureau of the Budget, responding to the pressure of the two chairmen, gave the Institute an identity of its own.

The following year, 1953, when the appropriations bill for fiscal year 1954 was on the floor, Congressman Olin Teague of Texas brought the situation up to date when he said in debate:

Unfortunately, in past years, the funds for the Institute of Neurology and Blindness were covered in with other funds of the Public Health Service and perhaps inadvertently were not given the attention that funds for the other institutes were given.

This year for the first time, the Institute of Neurology and Blindness is a line item in the budget and is being treated on the basis it deserves as a budget item.

The funds being appropriated in this bill for the institute will enable it to do more than it did last year.

But when we consider that the concept of such an institute goes back to the days of Dr. Harvey Cushing, who more than 30 years ago recommended such a setup, we can readily see that for many years nothing was done in a medical area which affects millions of our people.

We must make up for the deficiencies of these intervening years. Starting with the additional progress represented in this bill for fiscal year 1954, we must give our most serious attention to the development of the program throughout the rest of 1953 and the first part of 1954, so that a year hence we can reevaluate the need and at that time provide more adequate funds in this field.

It was only from this point forward that Dr. Bailey was able to do justice to the needs of the NINDB, no longer covered by the umbrella of "Operating expenses, NIH."

And only in this way was the NINDB able to experience the growth and development it has enjoyed in the ensuing 15 years.

We in ophthalmology find ourselves today in the same relationship to NINDB as NINDB did to NIH in 1952. We are able to supply a few words here or there on one or another of our needs.

Unfortunately, we are always overshadowed and inhibited by alining these to neurological disorders.