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# ada News Letter

Vol. 1 - No. 4

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## **PRINTERS STILL OUT -- APRIL A.D.A. JOURNAL TO BE COMBINED WITH MAY ISSUE**

There will be no issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION on April 1 because of the continued absence of type setters from their jobs at the General Printing Company where A.D.A. publications normally are printed.

It is planned that the April issue of THE JOURNAL will be combined with the May issue scheduled for distribution May 1. Once before, in 1945, the November and December issue of THE JOURNAL was combined because of a work stoppage by printers.

The compositors left their jobs on March 2. The labor dispute has closed nearly all commercial printing shops in Chicago.

## **COUNCIL TERMS VA DENTAL PROGRAM 'UN SOUND' -- URGES IMMEDIATE OVERHAULING OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Immediate revision of regulations and administrative procedures of the Veterans Administration relating to the out-patient dental service program for veterans has been requested by the Council on Dental Health of the A.D.A. The request was transmitted to Mr. Carl R. Gray, administrator of veterans affairs, and to Dr. Paul Magnuson, medical director, by Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, executive secretary of the Council.

Specific complaints against the present V.A. dental service program listed by the Council included charges that:

1. Impractical administrative policies currently being followed have resulted in much lost time for veterans and dentists.
2. Long delays in authorizing treatment have resulted in serious damage to the dental health of veterans in many cases.
3. The V.A. dental examination form is unnecessarily complicated.
4. Participating dentists frequently are not permitted to make the examination and diagnosis of the veterans dental condition they will be expected to treat.
5. The present trend to refer veterans to V.A. clinics for treatment deprives them of free choice of dentists and is in conflict with original agreements by V.A. officials.
6. Payments to dentists for services rendered, in a large proportion of cases, have never been made or have been delayed for a period of six months to a year.

Pointing out that the difficulties encountered in the V.A. program are only partially the result of shortage of funds, the Council declared:

The basic faults are directly attributable to the unsound and unrealistic regulations and administrative procedures. To correct these difficulties will require a complete overhauling of the basic plan for providing out-patient dental treatment for veterans.

The Council on Dental Health of the American Dental Association recommends that steps be taken immediately to revise the program so that eligible veterans may receive prompt and efficient out-patient treatment by the dentist of their choice and that the participating dentists be compensated for their services within a period not to exceed three months following the completion of the case.

### **HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO MEET AT SHERMAN HOTEL**

The House of Delegates will meet at the Sherman Hotel during the 89th annual session of the A.D.A. to be held Sept. 13 to 17, in Chicago. Previously, House sessions had been scheduled for the Congress Hotel. Scientific sessions and exhibits will be at the Stevens Hotel as originally planned.

Blanks for making application for hotel reservations for the Chicago meeting will be published in the June issue of THE A.D.A. JOURNAL. All reservations will be handled through a special housing bureau.

### **NAME PANEL FOR DENTAL HEALTH SECTION OF NATIONAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN WASHINGTON, MAY 1-4**

Twenty-six members of the dental profession are among thirty-three persons invited to participate in the dental health section of the National Health Assembly to be held in Washington, D. C., on May 1 to 4 under the sponsorship of the Federal Security Administration.

The dental section is one of eleven groups of the conference. Others will deal with subjects such as maternal and child health, research, rural health, physical medicine, medical care, mental health, industrial hygiene, and state and community health planning.

Dr. Ernest G. Sloman of San Francisco, dean, school of dentistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, is chairman of the steering committee for the dental health section. Other members of this committee are Dr. P. E. Blackerby, Jr., of Battle Creek, Mich., director, Division of Dentistry, W. K. Kellogg Foundation; Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, executive secretary, Council on Dental Health, A.D.A.; Dr. Harry Lyons, Richmond, president, Virginia State Dental Association; and Mrs. Charles D. Center of Atlanta, Ga., National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The dental health section, according to a federal security administration announcement, will be asked to consider "the need for dental health services and methods of closing the known gap between needs and dental care; the number of dental and auxiliary personnel required, the existing provisions for recruitment and training of such personnel, how they may be augmented and how better geographic distribution may be effected; and what measures are necessary to bring about an expansion in dental research and in the facilities for conducting such research."

Dentists who are members of the section are Dr. Ned Arganbright, Freeport, Ill., past president, Illinois Dental Society; Dr. Ira D. Beebe, Bridgeport, chairman, Council on Dental Health, Connecticut State Dental Society; Dr. J. C. Brauer, Seattle,

school of dentistry, University of Washington; Dr. D. W. Brock, St. Louis, chairman, Council on Dental Health, Missouri State Dental Association; Dr. M. D. Clawson, Nashville, president, Meharry Medical College; Dr. Clifton O. Dummett, Nashville, dean, school of dentistry, Meharry Medical College; Dr. Kenneth A. Easlick, Ann Arbor, professor of public health dentistry, University of Michigan; Dr. L. A. Gerlach, Milwaukee, dental director, Milwaukee Health Department; Dr. W. A. Jordan, Minneapolis, director, Division of Dental Health, Minnesota Department of Health;

Dr. Theodore Kaletsky, Jamaica, N. Y., editor, THE NEW YORK STATE DENTAL JOURNAL; Dr. H. M. Kulstad, Pomona, Calif., chairman, Council on Dental Health, A.D.A.; Dr. R. C. Leonard, Baltimore, chief, Division of Oral Hygiene, Maryland State Department of Health; Dr. Harold J. Noyes, Portland, dean, school of dentistry, University of Oregon; Dr. Oren A. Oliver, Nashville, past president, A.D.A.; Dr. Harold W. Oppice, Chicago, A.D.A. Trustee; Dr. John W. Ross, Philadelphia, vice dean for dentistry, graduate school of medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Leo J. Schoeny, New Orleans, member, Council on Dental Health, Louisiana State Dental Association; Dr. Alfred E. Seyler, Detroit, director, Children's Clinic, University of Detroit; Dr. R. M. Walls, Bethlehem, Pa., member, Committee on Economics, A.D.A.; Dr. William D. Wellock, Boston, director, Division of Dental Health, Massachusetts State Department of Health; Dr. H. B. Washburn, St. Paul, president, A.D.A.; and Dr. Walter A. Wilson, Trenton, secretary, New Jersey State Board of Dental Examiners.

Non-dentist members are Dr. Carl Wilzbach, Cincinnati Health Commissioner; Miss Ruth Bottomly, Chicago, National Congress of Parents and Teachers; Mr. Melvin Dollar, Washington, D. C., executive director, Group Health Association; Miss Margaret Jeffreys, Dover, Del., supervisor of oral hygiene, Delaware State Department of Health; Mr. Dorsey Kirk, Oblong, Ill., master, Illinois Grange; Mrs. James C. Parker, Grand Rapids, Mich., president, National Camp Fire Girls; Miss S. Virginia Wilson, Raleigh, N. C., extension nutritionist, North Carolina State College.

Additional dental representatives also have been named as members of the other sections. Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. general secretary, is a member of the executive committee for the Assembly as is Dr. George Lull, general manager, American Medical Association.

## CONSIDER SUBSIDY PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

The Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association has named a special committee to consider a number of suggested plans for the establishment of federal scholarships and fellowships for dental students and for grants-in-aid to dental schools.

Members of the committee are Dr. J. Ben Robinson of Baltimore, Dr. Roy O. Elam of Nashville, Tenn., Dr. J. R. Blayney of Chicago, and Harlan H. Horner also of Chicago, secretary of the Council.

Various federal agencies have prepared tentative proposals for governmental assistance to schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing and public health education. Adoption of any plan is contingent upon action by Congress.

Generally, the tentative proposals being considered at Washington, D. C., include grants to schools for aid in two forms: (1) basic grants to match school funds for the expansion of physical facilities of the schools and for annual maintenance, and (2) funds for scholarships for undergraduates and fellowships for graduate students. For several years, the Council on Dental Education has been on record favoring some form of federal aid to both undergraduate and graduate dental students and a system of grants to promote research in dental schools.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT EXPECTED SOON ON A.D.A. BILL FOR DENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

A report is expected soon from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives on the A.D.A. sponsored bill to establish a dental research institute at Bethesda, Md. At a public hearing conducted by the House Committee in Washington on March 11, all witnesses testified in favor of the bill.

Witnesses included Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman, A.D.A. Committee on Legislation; Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. general secretary; Dr. Walter Wright, dean, College of Dentistry, New York University; Dr. Harold Hodge, president, International Association of Dental Research; Dr. Richard C. Leonard, chief, Division of Oral Hygiene, Maryland State Department of Health; Dr. Sterling V. Mead, former A.D.A. president; Dr. Charles B. Hall, secretary, A.D.A. research commission; and Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general, U. S. Public Health Service.

In commenting on the hearing, the WASHINGTON REPORT ON THE MEDICAL SCIENCES, a weekly publication, forecast favorable action by the committee. The REPORT stated:

The well organized testimony in behalf of legislation to set up a dental research institute....is indicative of favorable action at an early date....So non-critical were the committee members and so one-sided the arguments that perhaps the hearing's most memorable feature was the round of tributes paid by the Congressmen to Dr. Parran, making his last official appearance before them....

## **MOVIE DEMONSTRATES TOPICAL FLUORIDE APPLICATIONS**

A new 16 mm., color film which shows the technic of application of a solution of sodium fluoride to the teeth of children has been produced by the United States Public Health Service. The film, entitled "Topical Fluorides," runs about 9 minutes. It may be obtained by writing to the Dental Health Section, States Relations Department, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington 25, D. C., or to the District Director of the U. S. Public Health Service at New York, Richmond, Va., New Orleans, Kansas City, Mo., Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco.

## **SEATTLE BIDS FOR 1951 SESSION**

Seattle has filed the first invitation for the 92nd annual session of the American Dental Association which will be held in 1951. Under the new policy of selecting cities for annual sessions three years in advance, invitations for the 1951 meeting must be submitted prior to the opening of the 89th annual session in Chicago on Sept. 13. Others interested in being host to the 1951 meeting should file invitations with the general secretary before this time. San Francisco has been selected for the 1949 session and Atlantic City for the 1950 session.

## **DR. WASHBURN TO ATTEND DEDICATION RITES**

Dr. H. B. Washburn, president, will represent the American Dental Association at the formal opening of the new building of Temple University dental school, Philadelphia, April 15 and 16. Dr. Washburn will also attend the annual sessions of the Michigan State Dental Society at Detroit on April 12, and the Virginia State Dental Association at Richmond on April 14.