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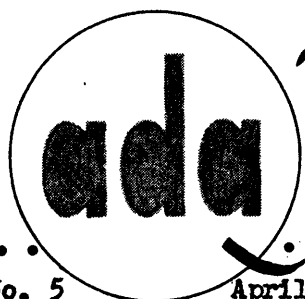


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News Letter

Vol. 1 - No. 5

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THREAT OF NEW NATIONAL EMERGENCY SPEEDS STUDY OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HEALTH NEEDS

The role of the nation's health services in the event of a new war or national emergency is being studied feverishly in the nation's capitol. The possibility of a shortage of dentists and physicians in the armed forces is reflected in the new selective service law (see below) being considered by Congress. Dentists, physicians, and veterinarians up to 45 years of age are made subject to immediate call. In all other personnel categories, the proposed selective service act lists only those males between 19 and 26 as subject to immediate call.

The Office of Civilian Components is gathering statistics on the number and distribution of professional personnel. The Army Surgeon General's office is engaged in an overall study of the maintenance of health service during war time. Information is being sought on the most feasible means of supplying sufficient dentists to care for an expanded armed forces and at the same time provide a minimum degree of dental care for the civilian population. In many quarters, officials are looking back with regret on the short-sighted policies during World War II which refused deferment to dental students. Dental graduating classes this year and next year will be among the smallest in a quarter of a century despite the nation's greatly expanded population and its increased demands for dental care.

Current shortages of dentists and physicians in the armed forces have resulted in rumors that peacetime procurement procedures would be shelved in place of the more formal selective service to secure needed manpower and that present dental and medical officers would be frozen in the service. The initial draft bill supports the former. Official denials, hedged by the explanation that no one could foretell the future, refute the latter.

The most serious dental shortage exists in the Army, where the bulk of armed service manpower is assigned. The Navy, although currently below authorized strength, is hopeful that its quota of dentists can be met without serious difficulty. Manpower shortages are more serious in the Dental Corps than in the Medical Corps, it is reported.

Confronted with a maze of ramifications from new legislation being considered by Congress at the request of President Truman, A.D.A. officials will hold a special conference in Chicago next Sunday (April 18). Principal problem to be considered is the special call for dentists proposed in the selective service bill. Secondary will be dental health service problems of another presidential proposal—Universal Military Training. Scheduled to attend are Dr. H. B. Washburn, A.D.A. president; Dr. Robert Curren, chairman, committee on military affairs; Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman, committee on legislation; Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, general secretary; Dr. L. M. Cruttenden and Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant secretaries, and other members of the Central Office staff.

Problems connected with maintaining health service during war time were considered at a special meeting of a newly-formed Council on National Emergency Medical Care of the

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American Medical Association in Chicago in early April. Numerous health organizations—the A.D.A., American Veterinary Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Pharmaceutical Association, American Hospital Association and others—were invited to participate. Dr. L. M. Cruttenden, assistant secretary, represented the A.D.A.

Pointing out that a threatened national emergency now exists, the Council, at its meeting here, recommended that the A.M.A., the A.D.A., and the eleven other professional groups represented exercise their full influence to urge the President of the United States and the Congress to establish a new governmental administration to be responsible for (1) effective plans for total mobilization of medical, dental, and allied resources of the nation; (2) procurement and allotment of medical and allied personnel; and (3) the

coordination of civil and military medical and allied services in time of threatened or actual national emergency.

One of the speakers at the Council session was Col. William L. Wilson of the Army Medical Corps who has been engaged for more than a year in an over-all study of health aspects of government services in time of a national emergency. Col. Wilson outlined tentative suggestions for meeting a national emergency. He suggested:

- a. Some equitable allocation of all health personnel to be predetermined by an authorized agency.
- b. Registration and classification of all personnel.
- c. The calling up of personnel solely in priorities and for purposes suitable to their classifications.
- d. The continuation of medical (and dental) education without reduction, the same applying for all related sciences.
- e. Maintenance of military medical (and dental) professional training program at maximum levels.

Col. Wilson listed a number of specific dental problems, which he described as inadequately or entirely unsolved. Solution to these problems, he said, calls for:

- a. Accurate information on dental needs of various categories of the population, but particularly potential military personnel, so we will predict more accurately our military dental requirements for personnel, materials and services.
- b. Establishment of minimal levels of dental health required for all categories so equitable allocation between Army and other requirements may be made of personnel and materials.
- c. Continuation of dental education and training in war.
- d. Means for limiting dental treatment in the Army and elsewhere to the most essential measures if such became necessary.
- e. Proper stockpiling of essential dental equipment and supplies.

- f. Improvement of dental health of future potential military personnel to reduce requirements for military dentists.

Col. Wilson also urged "that adequate indices and factors applicable to all medical and related functions essential for the civilian population be rapidly developed in such forms as to permit comparison with military logistical data, and that suggestions toward improvements in the latter be offered with a view to obtaining universally comparable data."

DENTISTS UNDER 45 MADE SUBJECT TO CALL IN SELECTIVE SERVICE BILL NOW BEFORE CONGRESS

All dentists, physicians and veterinarians under 45 years of age will be subject to special call for duty with the armed forces under terms of a new Selective Service Act introduced in the United States Senate. Male residents of the nation other than dentists, physicians and veterinarians are subject to call only in the 19 to 26 age bracket. Exemption is provided for all veterans of World War II, except the members of the three health professions.

The provision of the proposed law which refers directly to members of the dental profession follows:

Title 1, Section 105 (o) - "Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the President is authorized, pursuant to requisitions submitted by the armed forces, to make special calls for members of the medical, dental, and veterinary professions, who have not yet reached the age of forty-five at the time of such call, in such classifications and in accordance with such priorities as he shall determine and persons called hereunder shall be liable for induction for service in the armed forces in accordance with such procedures as the President shall prescribe.

General provisions of the Senate bill, introduced by Senator Chan Gurney (R. - S. D.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services provide: (1) that all males between the ages of 18 and 45 must register; (2) that all registrants between the ages of 19 and 26 will be liable for service; (3) that veterans of World War II shall be exempt provided there is not a declaration of war or a national emergency; (4) that any persons between the ages of 18 and 35 may volunteer; and (5) that each individual inducted shall serve twenty-four months and then be assigned to a reserve component until he is 35 or until 5 years after such transfer.

The bill provides that ministers of religion and students preparing for the ministry are exempt from service but not from registration. The bill also provides that any person who is satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course of instruction at any high school or similar institution of learning may be deferred from active service until he has graduated from such institution or until he attains the age of 20.

NEW BUDGET REQUESTS DUE MAY 1

Appropriation request forms for the period, July to December, 1948, and for the full calendar year of 1949, have been distributed to all committees, councils and other agencies of the Association. These must be filled out and returned to the Business Manager's office by May 1. The Board of Trustees has directed that 1949 budget requests be computed at the rate of 75 per cent of the actual appropriations approved by the House of Delegates for the 1947-48 fiscal year. The Board also directed that budget requests for the last half of 1948 be limited to 75 per cent of appropriations for the corresponding period of 1947. The Board will meet in Chicago at the end of May to consider the new budget requests.

20 MORE DENTISTS NAMED TO NATIONAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Nine additional persons, including six dentists, have been invited to be members of the dental health section (ADA News Letter, Apr. 1) of the National Health Assembly scheduled for May 1 to 4 at Washington, D. C. A total of 42 persons have now been invited by the Social Security Administration to participate in deliberations of the dental section headed by Dr. Ernest G. Sloman, of San Francisco.

Dental representatives have also been named for each of 12 other panel groups of the conference. In only two sections—mental health and nutrition—were there no dental members invited.

New members of the dental health section are: Dr. George M. Anderson, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Marion H. Gray, Little Rock, Ark.; Dr. Jasper A. Hennigar, Greenwich, Conn.; Dr. Harlan H. Horner, Chicago, secretary, A.D.A. Council on Education; Dr. Leon R. Kramer, Topeka, Kan., director, Division of Dental Hygiene, Kansas State Board of Health; Dr. Edward D. Leifer, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Donald H. Miller, Elmira, N. Y.; Mrs. William S. Murray, Hollins, Va., representing the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and Miss Annie Taylor, Atlanta, Ga., educational director, Division of Dental Health Georgia State Department of Health.

Dental personnel on health sections other than dental health has been named as follows:

Professional Personnel—Dr. John T. O'Rourke, Boston, Mass.
Hospital Facilities—Dr. Malcolm W. Carr, New York, N. Y.
Local Health Units—Dr. R. C. Dalgleish, Salt Lake City, Utah
Chronic Diseases—Dr. Isaac Schour, Chicago, Ill.
Maternal and Child Health—Dr. J. A. Salzman, New York, N. Y.
Rural Health—Dr. Clyde E. Minges, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Research—Dr. Allen G. Brodie, Chicago, Ill.
Medical Care—Dr. A. J. Aegis, New York, N. Y.; Dr. Frank J. Houghton, Jersey City, N. J.; and Dr. G. D. Timmons, Philadelphia, Pa.
Community Planning—Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, Nashville, Tenn.
Rehabilitation—Dr. William McGill Burns, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Industrial Health and Safety—Dr. J. M. Dunning, Boston, Mass.
Environmental Sanitation—Dr. H. B. G. Robinson, Columbus, O.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP MAY EXCEED 11,000 BY 1960

The American Dental Association may have 11,000 or more non-dues paying life members by 1960, it is forecast in a report by Dr. Shailer Peterson, director of educational measurements.

Under present regulations, dentists who have been members of the Association for 25 years and are 65 years of age or older are eligible for election as life members by the House of Delegates.

At present, the Association has 1,769 life members, including 937 elected at the 1947 annual session at Boston.

Dr. Peterson pointed out that the number of dentists eligible for election as life members would mount sharply in the next 20 years because of the larger percentage of dentists who are now members of the A.D.A. Dr. Peterson estimated that there would be 8,000 A.D.A. members 65 years of age or older by 1950. The majority of these, however, are ineligible because they have not been A.D.A. members for the required 25 years.

The increasing number of life members poses a serious financial problem for the Association. The Board of Trustees named a special committee to study the problems and suggest a solution prior to the annual meeting in September. Members of the committee are Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald of Dubuque, Ia., chairman; Dr. C. S. Foster of Cedar Rapids, Ia., Tenth district trustee, and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand of Chicago, general secretary.

STUDY VOLUNTARY PENSION PLAN FOR SELF-EMPLOYED

A plan whereby self-employed persons, such as dentists, physicians, lawyers and partners in unincorporated businesses, not now covered under federal social security laws, may participate in a voluntary pension program, is being drafted by an official committee organized by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Dr. William McGill Burns of Brooklyn, A.D.A. Trustee for the Second district, is attending sessions of the committee in charge as an observer for the A.D.A. Dr. Burns will submit a report on the proposed plan in full to the A.D.A. Board of Trustees for transmission to the House of Delegates in Chicago next September. In addition to Dr. Burns, representatives of more than a score of organizations such as the American Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Pharmaceutical Association and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, have attended preliminary sessions of the Bar committee considering a draft of the proposal.

In general, the plan calls for the amending of federal tax laws so that a self-employed individual may set aside each year, prior to the payment of income tax, a portion of his earnings by payment to the Internal Revenue Bureau. This amount would be limited to 15 per cent of earned income or \$10,000, whichever is the lesser. The funds would be invested in non-negotiable government bonds. At 60 years, or some other age to be determined, the individual would be permitted to withdraw from his bond account a certain sum each year. Funds withdrawn would be subject to income tax at the current rate applicable the year of withdrawal. At the death of the individual, the accrued sum would be payable to his estate or his beneficiaries.

Various deviations from the above are being considered before a final draft is recommended to Congress for enactment.

The general purpose of the plan is to permit the taxpayer whose income is derived primarily from his own earnings a chance to make adequate provision for old age. Under present tax laws, self-employed persons are able only to save a small percentage of funds from high-income years to provide reserve funds for later years of his life when his earned income will be considerably reduced or non-existent.

According to proponents of the plan, the average businessman who operates an incorporated business can set aside enough in his years of productive activity to meet his requirements in the closing years of life. In most cases, the businessman need only draw enough from the business to cover his personal living expenses plus personal income tax. The rest of the business earnings are subject to a corporate tax rate ranging from 21 per cent to 38 per cent, depending upon the amount of earnings. This tax is comparatively modest in contrast to individual income taxes which are payable under graduated rates attaining approximately 53 per cent at \$20,000, 60 per cent at \$30,000, 68 per cent at \$40,000, and 84 per cent at \$100,000.

The plan, if adopted, would enable professional men to set aside sufficient funds from current earnings to assure them of a comfortable income in old age. The government, the proponents of the plan point out, would receive its share of the income in taxes when the individual withdraws the funds in old age.

TYPESETTERS REMAIN AWAY FROM JOB-- NO PROGRESS REPORTED FROM NEGOTIATIONS

No settlement has been reached in the labor dispute which has closed nearly all commercial printing shops in Chicago, including those which normally print A.D.A. publications. A reduced issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, representing both the April and May numbers, will be distributed May 1. The labor dispute began when typesetters left their jobs on March 2. Negotiations between management and union representatives have been resumed but no progress towards a settlement has been reported. The A.D.A. NEWS LETTER will continue to be published in typewritten form until the labor dispute is settled.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OPPOSES BILL TO GIVE DENTAL CARE TO ALL DEPENDENTS OF NAVY PERSONNEL

The A.D.A. Legislative Committee has announced its disapproval of a bill (H.R. 5494) pending in the House of Representatives which would provide dental treatment for dependents of Naval and Marine Corps personnel. In a communication to Congressman Walter G. Andrews (R. - N. Y.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, A.D.A. legislative chairman, declared that the allotted dental personnel would have to be increased to provide the additional services. He said:

The recruiting of dental officers is very difficult at the present time. There is little hope of bringing the corps up to full strength until we catch up on graduates from dental schools. During the last year of the war prospective dental students were not deferred and consequently our present graduating classes are small.

It is argued that this bill is for the purpose of placing the Navy dependents on the same basis as Army dependents. However, this is not true as the Army service to dependents is provided by Army regulations and not by law. Law makes the service mandatory but regulations can be changed...The Army regulations further provides that dental services shall be given dependents only if the dental personnel has sufficient manpower to render such service in addition to caring for the Army personnel....

Dr. Flagstad said that there might be some justification for providing dental service to dependents of Navy men stationed in remote places where dental services are difficult to secure.

PLAN DINNER IN HONOR OF DR. HORNER

A dinner meeting of the American Association of Dental Schools will be held June 21, at the Hotel Statler in Buffalo, N. Y., in honor of Dr. Harlan H. Horner, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The dinner will be held in conjunction with the 25th annual meeting of the A.A.D.S.

NEW SURGEON GENERAL TAKES OFFICE

Dr. Leo Scheele, former director of the National Cancer Institute, was sworn in as surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service in ceremonies held Monday, April 5, at Washington. At that time, Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator, announced that Dr. Thomas Parran, retiring surgeon general, will have the grade of assistant surgeon general with the rank of major general. Dr. Parran has been assigned as the U.S.P.H.S. representative on the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization.