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American Dental Association

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# ada News Letter

Vol. 1, No. 8 - June 1, 1948

## **PRESIDENT TRUMAN PLEDGES SUPPORT OF A.D.A. DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM IN CONFERENCE WITH DR. H. B. WASHBURN**

In a special conference with Dr. H. B. Washburn, A.D.A. president, at the White House on May 19, President Harry Truman pledged his support of the three-point A.D.A. program of increased dental research, expanded dental health education, and the extension of dental care to greater numbers of people. President Truman expressed his particular concern for providing adequate health services to the middle group of citizens between the indigent and the high-income groups. The President said that he felt that this large group is trapped to a great extent by the high cost of living generally, leaving inadequate funds for necessary health services. Dr. Washburn pointed out the importance of consultations with the dental profession in the planning of measures designed to extend health services. Dr. Washburn said that the A.D.A. is ready to cooperate in such planning but that the Association would like to be consulted in the beginning of such planning rather than be called in after the plans are completed and ready for Congressional action. President Truman agreed with this point of view and pointed out that members of the dental profession attended the recent National Health Assembly at Washington, May 1 to 4, where 10-year health goals for the nation were formulated. Dr. Washburn was accompanied to the White House by Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant secretary in charge of the Association's Washington office.

## **DENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE RESTORED IN NEW BREHM BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A new dental research bill (H.R. 6726), sponsored by Rep. W. E. Brehm (R. Ohio), which restores provisions for establishment of a national dental research institute as part of the National Institute of Health, was reported favorably last Friday (May 28) by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives. The new bill is in the form of an amendment to the Public Health Service Act and apparently will replace the limited Brehm bill (H.R. 6470) reported favorably by the House committee on May 12 (See A.D.A. NEWS LETTER of May 15). Congressman Brehm told A.D.A. officials following the committee action that he was confident his latest bill would meet with favorable action on the floor of the House prior to the scheduled June 19 adjournment of Congress. The new measure provides for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the construction and equipment of a dental research building and \$750,000 annually for research purposes. The original A.D.A.-backed measure (S. 176), which was passed last summer by the U. S. Senate, provided for \$2,000,000 for a research building and \$730,000 annually for research purposes. The Senate bill and two identical House bills, H. R. 4200, introduced by Rep. Brehm, and H. R. 574, sponsored by Rep. Oren Harris (D. Ark.), were shelved by the House Committee when the second Brehm bill was reported favorably in mid-month. The limited Brehm bill (H.R. 6470) provided only for grants totalling \$750,000 to dental schools and other institutions for research purposes. This latter bill was vigorously opposed by the A.D.A.

A number of significant changes are included in the new bill expected to go on the floor of the House within the next two weeks. The new bill provides that the dental research institute shall be operated by the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service in consultation with a National Advisory Dental Research Council consisting of 12 appointed members plus the Surgeon Generals of the Public Health Service, Army and Navy, and the chief medical officer of the Veterans Administration. The bill provides that the 12 appointed members be "leaders in the fields of fundamental sciences, medical sciences, education or public affairs" and that six of the 12 shall be leading dental, medical or scientific authorities, four of which shall be dentists. Council members will serve staggered terms of four years each and will not be eligible for reappointment until one year after their terms have expired. The Council will elect its own chairman each two years. Council members will be paid \$50 per diem while attending Council sessions. The earlier dental research bills provided for a six-member Council including four dentists, with the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service as the ex-officio chairman. Per diem was set at \$25, and the term of office was set at three years. Medical chiefs of the Army, Navy and Veterans Administration were not made members of the Dental Council under the old bills. The new measure guarantees the dental profession only four members on the 16 member council. The old bill provided for appointment of four dentists on a seven member council. There is nothing in the new bill, however, to prohibit the appointment of more than four dentists.

The new dental research measure also includes a new provision for the training and instruction of research workers at the dental institute and elsewhere under special grants which was not authorized under the original bills. Provisions for grants to dental schools and other institutions for research purposes are identical to those included in the earlier bills.

### **A.S.T.P. & V-12 TRAINED DENTAL OFFICERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE AFTER 24 MONTHS SERVICE**

Dental and medical officers in the Armed Services who were trained under the Army Student Training Program or the V-12 program of the Navy will be eligible for automatic release at the end of two years of service. Ending several weeks of uncertainty in which it was repeatedly rumored that dental and medical officers would be "frozen" in the services as a result of the threatened national emergency, Col. Paul I. Robinson, personnel chief of the Army Medical Corps announced that effective June 1, such officers would be released in accordance with previously effective criteria. In a letter to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. general secretary, Col. Robinson pointed out that these officers could be released prior to the 24 month period by the number of days of accrued leave to their credit, or they could remain in service the full 24 months and draw two months leave pay in a lump sum payment if they had not used any of their authorized leave. On April 15, the Army issued a directive temporarily halting the release of A.S.T.P. trained dental officers. This directive is now rescinded. Identical action was taken by the Navy Department.

Congressional action on the draft bill requested by President Truman is expected to forestall any new shortage of dental officers in the Armed Services as A.S.T.P. and V-12 officers are released. Committees of both the Senate and the House have reported legislation incorporating provisions for the drafting of dentists, physicians and veterinarians up to the age of 45 years for service. In all other personnel categories, the draft age was set from 19 to 26. In general, the draft bills recommended by Congressional committees followed suggestions of the A.D.A. that a civilian board similar to the Procurement and Assignment Service of World War II be established to determine the number of dentists needed in the Armed Forces and to set up priority classifications for those called up for service. Congressional leaders have designated draft legislation as a "must" for consideration prior to the scheduled June 19 adjournment of Congress.

## INVESTIGATE ARREST OF DENTAL OFFICERS AT FORT EUSTIS, VA.

(CONFIDENTIAL — Not For Republication)

The War Department, at the request of the A.D.A., is making an investigation of the mass arrest in mid-May of the entire dental corps—seven captains and one lieutenant—stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia. The original charges against the dental officers have not been made public by the Army. In a telephone conversation with A.D.A. officials shortly after the arrests were made, the commanding general at Fort Eustis described the situation as a "local affair" which resulted while a medical lieutenant was in charge of the post hospital during the absence of the camp surgeon. Charges have been dropped, the general said, against all but one of the dental officers involved. The general said he was without authority to discuss the specific charges against the officers. A telegraphic appeal for an investigation was sent to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. general secretary, by wives of three of the dental officers. The wives charged that two of the dental officers were forcibly removed from their homes after midnight and brought to the post under guard without an opportunity to make any statements. The inspector general of the Army is now engaged in an investigation of the affair. Pending his report, which will be reported in the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER as soon as it is available, the Army has declined comment other than the following telegram sent to the A.D.A. from the Surgeon General's office on May 20:

CIRCUMSTANCE AT FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA, IS BEING THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. ALL DENTAL OFFICERS WERE TEMPORARILY CONFINED IN THEIR QUARTERS WHILE LOCAL INVESTIGATION WAS BEING MADE AS A RESULT OF THIS INVESTIGATION. ALL BUT ONE HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND ARE PRESENTLY ON DUTY IN THE DENTAL CLINIC. FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS WAS INDICATED IN THE CASE OF ONE REMAINING IN CONFINEMENT. THE BEHAVIOR OF THIS GROUP PROMPTED THE ACTION BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE POST WHO REPORTS THAT THE DENTAL OFFICERS ARE CONTENTED, THE MORALE GOOD AND PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES CHEERFULLY.

## DR. HORNER TO REMAIN AS SECRETARY OF COUNCIL ON DENTAL EDUCATION TO OCT. 1

At the unanimous request of the Council on Dental Education, Dr. Harlan H. Horner has agreed to remain as secretary of the Council until Oct. 1. Originally, Dr. Horner had planned to retire July 1. A successor to Dr. Horner, who has been secretary of the Council since 1940, will be recommended by the Council to the Board of Trustees at its meeting immediately prior to the 89th annual A.D.A. session in Chicago next September. Prior to joining the A.D.A. staff, Dr. Horner was associate commissioner of education for New York state.

## 4,000 HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR 1948 ANNUAL SESSION

Housing accommodations for the 89th annual session of the A.D.A. to be held in Chicago on Sept. 13 to 17, will be considerably less tight than at the 88th annual meeting at Boston last August. A total of 4,000 hotel rooms, one-third more than were available at Boston, have been promised the Association by the Greater Chicago Hotel Association. All room reservations for the meeting will be handled through a special housing bureau similar to that used for the Boston meeting. All requests for room reservations must be made on official blanks as printed in the June issue of the A.D.A. Journal, and mailed to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, Room 808, 105 W. Madison St., Chicago 2, Illinois. Reservation blanks will be printed in the July, August and September issues of JADA. Additional copies may be secured from the Housing Bureau or the A.D.A. Central Office. Sessions of the House of Delegates will be held at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago's loop while scientific meetings and exhibits will be at the Hotel Stevens on Michigan Boulevard.

## REVISED DRAFT OF A.D.A. CONSTITUTION IN JULY JOURNAL

Completed draft of the revised Constitution and By-Laws for the Association, scheduled for consideration by the House of Delegates next September, will be published in full in the July issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association. The final draft represents nearly two years of work by a special committee headed by Dr. Percy T. Phillips of New York City. Other members are Dr. Max E. Ernst of St. Paul, Minn., and Dr. C. E. Peterson of Rockville, Conn.

## DR. JOHN T. O'ROURKE OF BOSTON DIES SUDDENLY

Dr. John T. O'Rourke, director of postgraduate studies at Tufts College Dental School, Boston, died of a heart attack early Thursday, June 3. Dr. O'Rourke was dean of the College of Dentistry, University of Louisville, from 1926 to 1944 when he joined the faculty at Tufts. For many years he was active in Association affairs and served as a member of the Council on Dental Education from 1938 to 1946. From 1936 to 1940 Dr. O'Rourke was editor of The Journal of Dental Education. During the war he was chairman of the committee on dentistry, procurement and assignment services of the Federal Security Agency. Dr. O'Rourke was born in Saco, Maine, on Aug. 18, 1888. He is survived by his widow, the former Helen M. Cleaves.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. H. B. Washburn, A.D.A. president, will address members of the Maine Dental Society Sunday, June 6, at the opening session of its 83rd annual meeting at Poland Spring House, well-known summer resort....Dr. Washburn will also attend the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago on June 21 to 25. Approximately 12,000 physicians are expected to attend the A.M.A. convention to be held on Chicago's mile-long Navy pier....The Illinois State Dental Society has attracted nation-wide attention by its endorsement of a proposal by its president, Dr. Robert Kesel of Chicago, for the levying of a state tax on sugar to provide funds for dental welfare programs including research. Dr. Kesel argued that a tax on sugar for dental welfare purposes is as logical as a tax on gasoline for road construction purposes. The proposal will be transmitted to the Illinois legislature at its 1949 session opening in January....Dr. Clyde E. Minges of Rocky Mount, N. C., A.D.A. president-elect, is recovering nicely from a recent major operation performed at Philadelphia....Dr. Bernard Kingsbury of San Francisco, has been nominated as local arrangements chairman for the 90th annual session of the A.D.A. to be held in San Francisco on Oct. 17-21, 1949. His appointment is contingent upon action by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees....The House of Representatives last week passed a resolution authorizing the United States to become a member of the World Health Organization. Earlier, the Senate had approved U. S. participation in W.H.O. and the proposal now is slated for conference between representatives of the two branches of Congress. Full U. S. membership in W.H.O. is urged in an editorial in the current issue of The A.D.A. Journal....Dr. Lon Morrey, editor of JADA, will be the principal speaker at the Minnesota State Dental Association's annual banquet for the graduating class of the School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota, at St. Paul, Thursday, June 3....Two A.D.A. staff members, Dr. Shailer Peterson, director of educational measurements, and Mr. John J. Hollister, business manager, will speak at the annual meeting of the American Dental Trade Association at Hot Springs, Va., on June 24....Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, executive secretary of the Council on Dental Health, will participate in a school health planning conference sponsored jointly by the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas State Department of Health at Lawrence from June 7 to 11....Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, general secretary, will be an official A.D.A. representative at the annual meeting of the Canadian Dental Association at Murray Bay, June 20 to 24.