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# ada News Letter

Vol. 1, No. 9 - June 15, 1948

## **\$2,750,000 DENTAL RESEARCH BILL IS APPROVED BY CONGRESS; PRESIDENT TRUMAN EXPECTED TO SIGN MEASURE THIS WEEK**

Climaxing an eight-year campaign by the A.D.A., the United States Congress yesterday (June 14) voted full approval of the dental research bill (H.R. 6726) sponsored by Rep. Walter E. Brehm (R.-Ohio) and sent the measure to the White House for President Truman's signature. President Truman, who has previously indicated his support of expanded research, is expected to sign the measure into law upon his return this week-end from his present transcontinental tour. The bill, as voted by Congress, provides \$2,000,000 for the immediate construction and equipment of a dental research building and laboratory as part of the National Institute of Health and \$750,000 for the first year's operation of a research program. After several weeks of parliamentary maneuvering (A.D.A. NEWSLETTER, June 1), final Congressional action came speedily yesterday as Congressmen rushed toward Friday's scheduled adjournment. Early in the morning, the bill was approved by the Senate under the sponsorship of Senators Taft (R.-Ohio) and Smith (R.-N. J.). The Senate restored the \$2,000,000 appropriation for the research building which had been deleted a week earlier by the House of Representatives. Immediately after Senate action, the measure was sent back to the House where it was approved in full. Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman of the A.D.A. Committee on Legislation, was outspoken in praise of Congressman Brehm's role in securing final enactment of the measure.

In addition to the appropriations of \$2,750,000, the measure provides that the dental research institute shall be operated under the direction of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service in consultation with a National Advisory Dental Research Council consisting of 12 appointed members and the medical chiefs of the Army, Navy and Veterans Administration. The bill provides that at least four of the twelve appointed members shall be dentists. The measure also provides for the training and instruction of research workers at the dental institute and for the awarding of research grants to dental schools and other institutions. All types of dental research will be permitted under the general provision which declares the purpose of the Act is "to improve the dental health of the people of the United States through the conduct of researches, investigations, experiments and studies relating to the cause, diagnosis and treatment of dental diseases and conditions; assist and foster such researches and other activities by public and private agencies; provide training in matters relating to dental diseases and conditions; and promote the coordination of all such researches and activities and the useful application of their results, with a view to the development and prompt widespread use of the most effective methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of dental diseases and conditions."

In general, provisions of the new bill are almost identical with those of an earlier bill (S.176) which was unanimously passed by the U. S. Senate a year ago under the bi-partisan sponsorship of Senators Taft of Ohio, Aiken of Vermont and Morse of

Oregon, Republicans, and Murray of Montana and Pepper of Florida, Democrats. Dr. Flagstad's formal statement praising Congressman Brehm, who is a dentist and a member of the A.D.A. follows:

The American Dental Association is again indebted to Congressman Walter Brehm for his excellent work as champion of the Dental Research legislation in the 80th session of Congress. At a crucial moment when the passage of the bill in the House Committee was uncertain, Congressman Brehm introduced a substitute bill which overcame the objections and secured its passage by the House. Dr. Brehm throughout this session has worked incessantly with Congressional leaders to secure favorable consideration for the dental research legislation and to have them pave the way for its progress through Congress.

Congressman Brehm in the first session of the 80th Congress did excellent service for the American Dental Association in aiding the favorable consideration of the promotion and pay bills for dental officers. He is a member of the profession and the American Dental Association. It is good to have such friends in Congress who understand the dental health problem. Ohio is to be congratulated on sending Dr. Walter Brehm to Congress as he is an excellent public servant and is well equipped to judge the value of proposed dental health legislation.

### **EXPECT FINAL ACTION ON DRAFT BILL THIS WEEK**

Congress is expected to complete action on a draft bill by the end of the week. One bill has been passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives is scheduled to begin consideration of its version today (June 15). Final shape of the bill will be determined by conferees of the two houses of Congress. The Senate bill, as passed, provides that dentists and physicians up to 45 years of age are subject to call. In all other categories only persons under 26 years of age are subject to induction. The Senate bill, however, provides that local draft boards may prevent the induction of dentists and physicians by certifying that the health of the communities in which they reside will be "unduly jeopardized" as a result of their induction. The Senate bill also establishes a priority system under which dentists and physicians will be called up for service. Those to be called first are those who participated in the Army specialized training program or similar programs of the Navy and those who were deferred during World War II for professional training, and who have had no active service as commissioned officers. Second are those who did not have active service during World War II. Third are those who served the least number of full months during World War II. The Senate bill placed a two year limitation on the period of service. Similar priorities relating to the induction of dentists and physicians were incorporated in the draft bill recommended to the House by its Committee on Armed Services.

### **LAUNCH NEW SURVEY OF TOOTHBRUSHING HABITS OF AMERICANS**

A new survey of the toothbrushing habits of a group of American families will be conducted during the summer months by the J. Walter Thompson Company, national advertising agency, in cooperation with the A.D.A. Researchers assigned to the project hope to determine the number of persons who use a toothbrush, the frequency with which they use them and the actual efficiency of the brushes now in use. To determine the latter point, brushes will be collected from several thousand individuals and turned over to a committee of dental experts for evaluation. In addition, research workers will gather data on the frequency individuals visit their dentists for both routine checkups and for emergency dental treatment. Individuals will also be asked to identify the sources from which they obtain dental health information. Results of the survey will be announced in The Journal of the American Dental Association next fall. The Council on Dental Health has been requested to provide technical assistance in the preparation of questions dealing with dental health information.

## **TO BEGIN TEST OF NEW PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS AT DENVER NEXT MONTH**

The first "pilot" program of preventive health services authorized for employees of the federal government under Public Law 658 passed by Congress two years ago is slated to begin operations next month at Denver, Colo., according to an announcement of the U. S. Public Health Service. Because of the lack of funds, the Denver program is expected to be quite limited in scope and probably will be the only one of its kind in operation during the new fiscal year beginning July 1. Approximately 3,600 employees of the Denver Federal Center will be covered in the test program which will include limited dental and medical services. The enabling law declares that governmental agencies may provide routine health examinations and emergency treatment service for their employees similar to that provided by private industry. Objectives of the program are: (1) to promote and maintain the employee's optimal health; (2) to increase the employee's efficiency and productivity while on the job; and (3) to reduce sickness-absenteeism, employee turnover and compensation cases. Dr. Henry F. Canby, senior dental surgeon of the U. S. P. H. S. and chief of dental operations for the project, said that the service planned will not be a substitute for treatment by the private dentist or physician. He pointed out that only emergency dental or medical treatment will be provided and that in all other cases employees will be referred to their family practitioners for health care. At the start, the dental part of the Denver program will consist primarily of routine examinations and health education projects. When funds are available, Dr. Canby said, it is planned to include all of the following:

- (a) Dental health examinations which include pre-employment, fitness-for-duty, periodic and other types of examinations to evaluate the oral health status of the employee. Dental x-ray service to aid in establishing dental diagnosis.
- (b) Palliative treatment of emergency dental conditions and injuries which occur on the job. Also treatment of certain dental conditions authorized by the Bureau of Employees' Compensation, and special treatment of individual employees upon the written request of their private dentists.
- (c) Maintenance of dental records and reports.
- (d) Referral of employees in need of dental care to private dentists or community dental resources.
- (e) Dental health education and guidance.
- (f) Consultation and advice in dental health matters.

In addition to a study made at Denver, appraisal surveys of the health needs and available facilities have been completed for federal employees at Kansas City and Chicago. At Kansas City, a total of 10,800 government workers were included. In Chicago, 42,000 workers were included. Surveys have also been made at Washington, D. C. It will probably be a year, however, before actual programs are placed in operation at either of these three cities. Representatives of local dental and medical societies were consulted in each of the communities selected for the survey and advisory committees named to assist in operation of the program. Dentists named to these committees include Dr. William D. McCarthy of the Colorado State Dental Society; Drs. Eugene K. Arnold and W. Wayne White of the Kansas City (Missouri) Dental Society; Dr. Arthur O. McGowan of the Wyandotte County (Kansas) Dental Society; and Drs. J. Roy Blayney, Clarence A. Hanson and Francis J. O'Grady of the Chicago Dental Society. Members of the survey team also have held a number of informal conferences with representatives of the A.D.A.

## CONGRESS VOTES \$1,000,000 FOR TOPICAL FLUORIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

Projects demonstrating topical fluoride therapy as a preventive measure in the control of dental caries will be established in each state of the nation during the next year under a program authorized last week by the 80th Congress. A total of \$1,000,000 to finance the organization of field demonstration units in cooperation with state health departments was included in the annual appropriation bill for the United States Public Health Service. Plans for operation of the program will be formulated at a special conference of state and federal health workers to be held at Washington, D. C., on June 23, 24 and 25 under the joint sponsorship of the Children's Bureau and the Public Health Service. All state dental health directors have been invited to attend. Dr. John W. Knutson of the U.S.P.H.S. state's relations division and one of the nation's leading researchers in topical fluoride therapy will be in charge of federal operation of the program. Topical applications of a solution of sodium fluoride to the teeth of children up to 15 years of age have been recommended by both the Council on Dental Health and the Council on Dental Therapeutics of the A.D.A. The establishment of demonstration units in each of the 48 states is expected to result in an expanding use of this preventive measure in all sections of the nation.

## PLAN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF APTITUDE TESTING PROGRAM

Dr. Harlan H. Horner, secretary of the Council on Dental Education, and Dr. Shailer Peterson, director of educational measurements, will conduct a roundtable discussion on the A.D.A. aptitude testing program for dental students at the annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Schools in Buffalo, N. Y., on June 21. Dental school faculty members who will be on the panel will include Dr. Leroy R. Boling of Washington University; Dean Willard C. Fleming of the University of California; Dean Bert L. Hooper of the University of Nebraska; Dr. Gustav W. Rapp of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, Loyola University; Dr. Ray V. Smith of the University of Iowa and Dean Gerald D. Timmons of Temple University.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. general secretary, will attend a meeting at Washington, D. C., on June 28, of the executive committee of the National Health Assembly which was held there last May 1-4 (A.D.A. NEWSLETTER, May 15). The committee, headed by Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing, is scheduled to review recommendations for ten year health goals and issue a final statement on the work of the 800 delegates who participated in the conference. Work of the Assembly was praised in a recent editorial in The Journal of the American Medical Association....The Division of Dental Health Education of the Council on Dental Health is preparing a new pamphlet on topical fluoride therapy. The pamphlet is designed to acquaint the public with the facts surrounding the use of fluorine in dentistry....50,000 additional copies of the pamphlet, "Tommy's First Visit to the Dentist," have been ordered to meet the heavy demand for this popular publication. Copies sell for ten cents each or at \$4 per hundred. Sample copies are free....Drs. D. A. Wallace and J. Roy Doty of the staff of the Council on Dental Therapeutics will attend the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research at Rochester, N. Y., June 18-2-....Full transcript on the proceedings at the Conference of State Society Officers held in conjunction with the 88th annual session of the A.D.A. at Boston last year has been published. Copies are now being distributed to all state societies....Preliminary program for the 89th annual session of the A.D.A. in Chicago next September will be published in the August issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association. Approximately 75 essayists and more than 200 clinicians will participate in scientific sessions to be held at the Hotel Stevens. Arrangements have been made for a total of 234 exhibit booths for commercial exhibits and more than 100 scientific and health exhibits also booked for the Stevens....Members of the A.D.A. Relief Commission met in Chicago this week to complete work on the revision of rules and regulations concerning the A.D.A. relief fund in accordance with a mandate of the House of Delegates voted at the 88th annual meeting at Boston last August.