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American Dental Association

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# ada News Letter

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Vol. I, No. 19 - December 1, 1948

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## EWING ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY DENTAL RESEARCH COUNCIL; ROSTER INCLUDES FIVE A.D.A. MEMBERS

Formal announcement of the appointment of the twelve members of the National Advisory Dental Research Council was made last week (Nov. 25) by Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator and boss of Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele, who made the appointments. The Council was created by the A.D.A.-sponsored Dental Research Act passed by Congress last June (See A.D.A. NEWS LETTER, June 15, 1948). Five dentists, one more than specified by the act, were named to the Council, which will serve as the chief advisory group for the new National Institute of Dental Research to be administered by the U. S. Public Health Service. Funds for the Institute were authorized by the 80th Congress but the actual appropriation was left for the 81st Congress convening in January. The authorization calls for \$2,000,000 for a research building and \$750,000 annually for operations. The Council is scheduled to meet soon in Washington, D. C., to elect a chairman and to consider plans for the establishment of the dental research institute now being developed by Dr. H. Trendley Dean, director of the Institute. Those appointed to the Council, for terms varying from one to four years, are:

- Dr. Paul C. Kitchin, of Columbus, Professor of Dental Histology and Embryology, College of Dentistry, Ohio State University.
- Dr. Maynard K. Hine, of Indianapolis, Dean, School of Dentistry, Indiana University.
- Dr. Robert A. Downs, of Denver, Colorado Department of Public Health.
- Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, Secretary, American Dental Association.
- Dr. Harold J. Noyes, Portland, Dean, Dental School, University of Oregon.
- Dr. R. Wendell Harrison, of Chicago, Vice President, University of Chicago.
- Dr. Harold C. Hodge, of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester.
- Mrs. Mabel W. Hughes, of Arlington, Tenn., and Chicago, President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.
- Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, Dean, School of Public Health, University of Michigan.
- Miss Harriet M. Bartlett, of Boston, Simmons College.
- Dr. Theophilus S. Painter, of Austin, President, University of Texas.
- Mr. Arnold Nicholson, of Philadelphia, Managing Editor, Country Gentleman Magazine.

The surgeons generals of the Public Health Service, Army and Navy and the chief medical officer of the Veterans Administration are ex-officio members of the Council. Under the law, four members of the Council must be outstanding experts in the study, diagnosis and treatment of dental diseases. Other members, it was specified, may be chosen from the fields of general science, medicine, education and public affairs. Duties of the Council are to advise with the Institute staff in the development of research programs designed to help in the prevention and treatment of dental diseases and conditions; to review and make recommendations to the Surgeon General on applications from institutions and individuals for research in dental diseases; and to advise on the whole program of the institute for controlling dental diseases.

## SHOWDOWN BATTLE OVER COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE LOOMS; HEALTH PROFESSIONS MARSHALL RESOURCES TO OPPOSE EWING PLAN

### BULLETIN

In a secret session today (Dec. 1) at St. Louis, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association voted a special assessment of \$25 per member to fight government control of health programs. Based on A.M.A.'s present membership of 140,000 physicians, the assessment would provide a total fund of \$3,500,000 for what A.M.A. delegates termed an "educational campaign."

Battle lines are taking shape over the issue of compulsory health insurance. Proponents of the measure, which has been bandied about in congressional committees for several years, are interpreting the Nov. 2 election as a "mandate" for its immediate enactment. Leaders of the health professions involved have been equally alert in pointing out the basic fallacies of a national scheme which glibly promises health care without regard to the basic facts regarding professional resources. There is little doubt that the issue will be contested strongly in the 81st Congress, convening next month. So far, the discussion on both sides has been couched in general terms. Prominent members of the new Congress in general have avoided a discussion of the issues pending completion of the draft of a new compulsory health insurance bill now being prepared by the staff of the Federal Security Administration. Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator who has his eye on a cabinet post as head of a new department of "human resources," has led the vocal clamor for Congressional action. Typical quotes from Ewing's postelection speeches, as reported by the Washington Report of the Medical Sciences are: "The argument that we are proposing socialized medicine that would interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, that we would stifle medical research, etc., is pure poppycock... We are set to go on the most comprehensive program of health that has ever been offered to the people of the United States..." Leaders of the A.D.A. and the A.M.A., are marshalling their forces for an all-out battle when compulsory health insurance is brought up in Congress.

#### DR. FLAGSTAD WARNS AGAINST "DEFEATISM"

All A.D.A. agencies have been alerted for the forthcoming battle in Congress and the Council on Legislation, Council on Dental Health, Bureau of Public Information and others are at work preparing material for use by state and local societies and individual members in providing basic information to Congressmen and the public. Analyses of the proposed legislation will be available as soon as the preliminary draft of the bill is released by the Federal Security Administration staff. In a report to members and consultants of the Council on Legislation, Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, Council chairman, warned against any "spirit of defeatism" within the profession. He declared:

The results of the election, unfortunately, have engendered a spirit of defeatism within the profession regarding the ability to prevent the enactment of compulsory health insurance legislation. This attitude is detrimental to the success of our cause and is not warranted on the basis of past experience with this type of legislation. The opposition of the health professions to compulsory health insurance bills during the ten years they have been before Congress has had a wholesome effect upon the Congressmen... Although the administration has indicated it favors the enactment of this legislation, many of the Congressmen in both parties are vigorously opposed to it. They will not accept the philosophy of regimentation... It undoubtedly will be rough going in the 81st session on this legislation but our cause is far from lost.

#### EDITORIAL GIVES A.D.A. STAND ON NEW ARMY RECRUITING DRIVE

The current issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION devotes its lead editorial to a discussion of the nationwide "Community Relations Program" designed to induce dentists, physicians and nurses to volunteer for active duty in the Army. The American Dental Association declined a bid from the Army to be a sponsor of the program.

## DR. SCHERER MAY GET DENTAL POST ON FORRESTAL MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE; CHANCES ARE SLIM FOR SEPARATE DENTAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Walter H. Scherer, of Houston, Tex., former A.D.A. president, is slated for appointment as the dental member of the new civilian Medical Advisory Committee to be named by Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, according to unconfirmed reports reaching A.D.A. headquarters from the nation's capitol. It also is reported that there is little chance that Forrestal will act favorably on the request of the A.D.A. House of Delegates that a dental advisory committee be created to coordinate the profession's role in defense planning. Instead, Forrestal is reported ready to announce the appointment of a new top level group of health program advisers consisting of several medics and one dentist. According to the Washington Report of the Medical Sciences, the new committee will consist of eight members. When named, the committee will face the serious problem of advising on a solution to the critical shortage of dental, medical and other health personnel in the armed forces. As the situation now stands, the Department of Defense is almost certain to ask Congress for an amendment to the Selective Service Act so the Army and Navy can draft the dentists and physicians it needs. Last week, Secretary Forrestal issued an appeal to young dentists and physicians who have registered for Selective Service to volunteer for active duty. The statement pointed out that those who volunteer will be eligible for the \$100 a month pay bonus granted dental and medical officers by an act of Congress. Those who are drafted will not be eligible for the extra pay, it was reported. Another note on the defense front is the report of the Navy Dental Corps that more than 150 senior dental students have already applied for appointment and active duty as ensigns. Those accepted will receive active duty pay until graduation. Appointments will be limited to a total of 100 senior dental students.

## 100 PER CENT A.D.A. STUDENT MEMBERSHIP REPORTED BY THREE SCHOOLS

Three dental schools, those of Loyola University (Chicago), Temple University and the University of Texas, have reported 100 per cent enrollment of their undergraduate dental students as student members of A.D.A. for 1949. Texas was the first to submit a perfect report, showing 194 memberships among 194 students (See A.D.A. NEWS LETTER, Nov. 1). During the past month, Temple University reported 454 A.D.A. memberships among 454 students and Loyola University reported 317 memberships among 317 students. The University of Kansas City reported 306 A.D.A. members in a total enrollment of 384. Other schools reporting included the University of Southern California with 186 A.D.A. student members out of a total enrollment of 395; Indiana with 150 out of 249; Emory, 154 out of 295; Michigan, 62 out of 309; Washington, 98 out of 145; Buffalo, 41 out of 174; Tennessee, 25 out of 303; Detroit, 62 out of 309; Howard, 20 out of 169; Northwestern, 59 out of 359; and Creighton, 18 out of 129. Illinois and Nebraska each reported two A.D.A. student members and Harvard, Tufts, Minnesota and Meharry each reported one A.D.A. student member. Reports have not been received from the remaining nineteen accredited dental schools which are covered in the current student membership campaign being conducted by the Council on Membership, headed by Dr. Holly C. Jarvis, of Cincinnati, O. The campaign will be continued through January, Dr. Jarvis announced at a special meeting of the Council on Membership in Chicago last Sunday (Nov. 28).

## DR. EMIL H. BOLLWERK OF ST. LOUIS IS NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. Emil H. Bollwerk, 805 South Side National Bank Bldg., St. Louis, has been named a member of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Corps to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. John S. Voyles, also of St. Louis. Dr. Bollwerk's appointment was announced by President Clyde E. Minges during last week's Mid-Continent Dental Congress at St. Louis. Dr. Bollwerk is a World War II veteran and is the immediate past president of the National Dental Veterans League. At present he is also chairman of the military affairs committee of the Missouri State Dental Association. Dr. Voyles is the dental consultant of the Veterans Administration and resigned from the A.D.A. Council because of a possible "conflict of interests."

## ILLINOIS TAKES EARLY LEAD IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO A.D.A. RELIEF FUND



Illinois took an early lead in the first scattered returns in the annual campaign for contributions to the American Dental Association Relief Fund. In the opening two weeks' period ending Nov. 15, a total of \$4,506.36 was received from 2,138 contributors. The average donation was \$2.10, more than twice that received in last year's campaign. Of the total contributions up to Nov. 15, more than one-fourth, or \$1,175, was from Illinois dentists. In all, contributions were received by Nov. 15, from twenty-two of the fifty-three constituent societies cooperating in this year's fund drive. The contributions from Illinois amounted to 15 per cent of the state's quota. Alabama and Indiana reported contributions of 14 per cent of their quota, and Arkansas reached 12 per cent of its quota in the early returns. Several additional thousands of returns were received during the last two weeks of November. These are now being tabulated and will be reported in the Dec. 15 issue of the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER. The goal for this year's campaign has been set at \$100,000. Receipts will be divided equally between the A.D.A. Relief Fund and the relief funds of the various constituent societies. Dr. John S. Owens, of Camden, N. J., chairman, and Dr. L. S. Jacob, of Peoria, Ill., secretary of the Council on Relief, were highly pleased with the initial response and urged all dentists to make their contributions as soon as possible. Envelopes for mailing donations accompanied the A.D.A. Relief Seals which were mailed to each member of the Association during November. All contributions should be mailed direct to the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION RELIEF FUND, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

## A.D.A. COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN NEXT WEEK REGARDING PLANS FOR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY

A special committee headed by Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president, will meet with President Truman at the White House on Tuesday, Dec. 7, to request formally a presidential proclamation supporting the objectives of the first annual National Children's Dental Health Day to be observed Monday, Feb. 7. In addition to Dr. Minges, members of the committee are Drs. H. E. Kelly and Harvey C. Janke of Cleveland, Dr. Leon R. Kramer of Topeka, Kansas, and Drs. Daniel F. Lynch and C. Willard Camalier of Washington, D. C. A wide variety of state and community programs including scientific meetings for dentists and educational programs for children and parents are being planned for the first national observance. In many communities, special school programs and demonstrations will be held. A number of contests designed to interest children in dental health education also are being planned. Additional material relating to local program planning and publicity, prepared by the Southern California State Dental Association, will be distributed to all state and component societies within the next week.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NAMES EIGHT CONSULTANTS

Eight consultants, one from each of the eight A.D.A. trustee districts not already represented on the five member Council on Legislation, have been appointed by the Council, it is announced by Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman. This step was taken, Dr. Flagstad explained, so that each of the thirteen districts would have a legislative representative to marshal local support for programs of the Council. Those named as special consultants for their respective trustee districts are: Dr. William H. Griffin, of Boston, 1st; Dr. Manly Michaels, of Washington, D. C., 4th; Dr. Paul E. Jones, of Farmville, N. C., 5th; Dr. Granville Sherman, of Memphis, Tenn., 6th; Dr. N. A. Arganbright, of Freeport, Ill., 8th; Dr. C. J. Baumann, Sr., of Milwaukee, Wis., 9th; Dr. C. H. Swanson, of Columbus, Mont., 11th; and Dr. W. R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., 12th. Members of the Council on Legislation and their respective districts are: Dr. Flagstad, 10th; Dr. Thomas J. McDermott, vice chairman, of Cleveland, 7th; Dr. E. H. Gale, of Albany, N. Y., 2nd; Dr. Milton P. Eaton, of Philadelphia, 3rd; and Dr. Bruce R. Kurtz, of Pasadena, Calif., 13th.