

American Dental Association

ADACommons

[ADA News Letter](#)

[ADA Publications](#)

12-15-1948

ADA News Letter - 12/15/1948

American Dental Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter>



Part of the [Dentistry Commons](#), [History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Commons](#), and the [Nonprofit Administration and Management Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 12/15/1948" (1948). *ADA News Letter*. 6.
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/6>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the ADA Publications at ADACommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in ADA News Letter by an authorized administrator of ADACommons. For more information, please contact commons@ada.org.

ada News Letter

Vol. 1, No. 20 - December 15, 1948

PRESIDENT TRUMAN TURNS DOWN REQUEST FOR PROCLAMATION FOR A NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY ON FEB. 7

President Truman today (Dec. 15) turned down a request of the A.D.A. that he proclaim next February 7 as National Children's Dental Health Day. In a communication to Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president, President Truman explained that he had received so many requests for special proclamations that he did not feel that he could issue such a proclamation without authority from Congress. The President said that he was highly sympathetic with the objectives of the Association in staging a nationwide program to stimulate interest in the dental health of American children. Immediately following receipt of President Truman's letter, A.D.A. officials announced that the first annual observance of National Children's Dental Health Day will be conducted as planned on Monday, Feb. 7. A number of Congressional leaders have expressed interest in the program and have offered to introduce a resolution in Congress formally designating the first Monday in February as National Children's Dental Health Day. Formal request for the proclamation was presented to President Truman at the White House on Dec. 7 by Dr. Minges and a group of other A.D.A. representatives including Dr. Leon Kramer of Topeka, Kan., Dr. H. E. Kelly and Dr. H. C. Janke, of Cleveland, and Dr. Daniel F. Lynch and Dr. C. Willard Camalier, of Washington, D. C. The A.D.A. delegation was accompanied to the White House by Senator James Murray (D.-Mont.); Dr. Bruce D. Forsyth, assistant surgeon general and chief of the dental division, U.S. Public Health Service; and Mr. Leslie Biffle, staff director of the minority policy committee of the U. S. Senate.

F.S.A. CALLS CONFERENCE OF DENTAL LEADERS FOR JAN. 4-5 TO PREVIEW PLANS FOR INCREASED FEDERAL AID TO DENTAL SCHOOLS

Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing is planning to invite a number of dental leaders to Washington, D. C., on Jan. 4 and 5 to confer with him concerning proposals for an expanded program of federal aid to dental schools and dental students. Similar conferences have been arranged for representatives of the medical and nursing professions. The conference for physicians has been set for Dec. 28 and 29 and that for nurses for Dec. 30 and 31. Names of those invited for the dental conference have not been announced. It is known, however, that the conference will include representatives of the A.D.A., the American Association of Dental Schools and the American Association of Dental Examiners. During recent years, various federal agencies have prepared a number of tentative proposals for increased governmental assistance to schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing and public health education. These proposals, it is expected, will be formalized at the scheduled conferences for presentation to the 81st Congress convening next month. In general, the proposals are expected to recommend federal aid to professional schools in two forms: (1) basic grants to match school funds for expansion of physical facilities of the schools and for annual maintenance, and (2) funds for scholarships for undergraduates and fellowships for graduate students. Recommendations urging Congress to provide increased aid to dental education were approved last May by the dental section of the National Health Assembly.

NORTH DAKOTA DENTISTS OVERSUBSCRIBE QUOTA FOR A.D.A. RELIEF FUND TO LEAD ENTIRE NATION IN 1948-1949 CAMPAIGN



North Dakota dentists have an impressive lead over their colleagues in the rest of the nation in the current campaign for contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund. At the end of the second accounting period, Nov. 15 to 30, North Dakota dentists had contributed \$353, or 117 per cent of their quota of \$300. This included a state society check for \$224, representing a \$1 contribution from each of the society's 224 members. The next closest state was Arizona. There dentists contributed 40 per cent of the state quota. Total contributions to the Fund through Nov. 30 amounted to \$24,650, or approximately a fourth of the nationwide goal of \$100,000. This total represented contributions from 11,297 dentists, or about a sixth of the total active membership of the Association. Returns for the period of Dec. 1 to 15, which are now being tabulated, were considerably fewer in number than those of the previous period. Dr. John S. Owens, of Camden, N. J., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Relief, has issued a new appeal for support. He pointed out that so far over two-thirds of the A.D.A. members have not contributed to the Fund. With rising costs, he said, additional funds are needed to provide grants for dentists and their dependents in need of financial assistance. Half of each contribution goes to the A.D.A. Relief Fund and the other half is returned to the relief fund of the state society of which the donor is a member. Donations to the Fund should be mailed direct to the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION RELIEF FUND, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. Total contributions by constituent societies and the per cent of the quota for each are shown in the following table.

1948-49			1948-49				
QUOTAS	To Dec. 1 CONTRIBUTIONS	PCT	QUOTAS	To Dec. 1 CONTRIBUTIONS	PCT		
Alabama	\$ 800.00	\$ 313.00	39	Nebraska	\$1180.00	\$ 67.00	6
Arizona	200.00	80.00	40	Nevada	100.00	19.00	19
Arkansas	400.00	111.50	28	New Hampshire	300.00	73.00	24
Army	400.00	39.50	10	New Jersey	4170.00	1062.50	25
California	3550.00	1129.92	32	New Mexico	200.00	49.00	24
S. California	4190.00	1505.50	36	New York	15830.00	3247.38	21
Colorado*	900.00	31.00	3	N. Carolina	1150.00	298.00	26
Connecticut	1950.00	717.00	37	N. Dakota	300.00	353.00	117
Delaware	100.00	39.00	39	Ohio	4860.00	1258.00	25
Dist. of Col.	900.00	282.00	31	Oklahoma	900.00	285.00	32
Florida	1100.00	341.00	31	Oregon	1115.00	366.00	33
Georgia	1000.00	263.50	26	Pan. Can. Zone	30.00	00.00	00
Hawaii	300.00	63.00	21	Pennsylvania	7520.00	1689.50	22
Idaho	200.00	54.00	27	P. H. Service	200.00	18.50	9
Illinois	7710.00	2445.00	32	Rhode Island	600.00	107.00	18
Indiana	2450.00	704.00	29	S. Carolina	500.00	106.00	21
Iowa	1950.00	462.00	24	S. Dakota	400.00	69.00	17
Kansas	1160.00	348.27	30	Tennessee	1120.00	245.50	22
Kentucky	1120.00	148.00	12	Texas	2900.00	699.50	24
Louisiana	1030.00	180.50	17	Utah	500.00	20.00	4
Maine	500.00	131.00	26	Vermont	200.00	53.50	27
Maryland	1020.00	213.00	21	Vet. Admin.	900.00	50.00	6
Mass.	3800.00	538.00	14	Virginia	1100.00	209.50	19
Michigan	3900.00	919.00	23	Washington	1640.00	533.50	33
Minnesota	3140.00	703.50	22	West Virginia	800.00	185.00	23
Mississippi	500.00	176.10	35	Wisconsin	3070.00	584.00	19
Missouri	2690.00	837.00	31	Wyoming	200.00	45.00	22
Montana	400.00	98.50	24				
Navy	500.00	50.00	10	TOTALS	100,000.00	24,650.00	25

* Contributions of Colorado dentists which are made through the Colorado State Dental Society have not yet been reported.

COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF MEDICAL -DENTAL SERVICES IN THE ARMED FORCES INDICATED BY SECRETARY FORRESTAL IN CONFERENCE WITH A.D.A. OFFICIALS

A complete revamping of the medical and dental services of the armed forces is now under consideration, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal told a committee of A.D.A. officials in Washington today (Dec. 15). An A.D.A. delegation headed by President Clyde E. Minges spent an hour this afternoon with Mr. Forrestal, Undersecretary of War W. H. Draper and high ranking staff officers discussing Association demands for a parity of administration with medicine for the Army Dental Corps under a common surgeon general. The defense secretary, who is confronted with a serious shortage of health personnel in all branches of the armed forces, was sympathetic to the proposals of the A.D.A. and assured the Association representatives that the entire medical department of the nation's defense services faced a thoroughgoing revamping. Mr. Forrestal also said he would take under consideration a request of the A.D.A. that one or more additional dentists be named to the recently appointed medical advisory committee for the Department of Defense. Only one dentist, Dr. Walter H. Scherer, of Houston, Tex., was named to the committee. In addition, the A.D.A. delegation asked that the dental chiefs of the three branches of the armed forces also be named as members of the committee. As originally announced last week (see story on page 4), the medical chiefs of the armed forces were named members of the committee. The A.D.A. spokesmen informed Mr. Forrestal that under a mandate from the A.D.A. House of Delegates, the Association would request Congress to enact legislation guaranteeing Army dentists a parity of administration with medical officers. Members of the A.D.A. delegation, in addition to Dr. Minges, included Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman of the Council on Legislation; Dr. R. H. Friedrich, chairman of the Council on Federal Government Dental Corps; Dr. William McGill Burns, New York trustee; Dr. C. Willard Camalier and Mr. Francis J. Garvey of the A.D.A. staff.

DR. McCLELLAND APPOINTED MEMBER OF COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

Dr. W. D. McClelland, 351 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, has been appointed a member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation by Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president. Dr. McClelland succeeds Dr. M. P. Eaton, of Philadelphia, who resigned because of ill health. Dr. McClelland will serve on the five member council until the 1949 annual A.D.A. session in San Francisco next October. Vacancies exist on two other A.D.A. Councils. Dr. Bert L. Hooper, of Lincoln, Neb., has resigned from the Council on Dental Education because of ill health. Dr. Hooper represented the American Association of Dental Schools on the Council, and his replacement will be named by that association. Dr. Joseph Justin, of Milwaukee, Wis., a member of the Council on Insurance, died Nov. 19.

1949 A.D.A. STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS REACH TOTAL OF 3,277

Five more dental schools have reported the enrollment of a high percentage of their students in the A.D.A. None of them, though, has achieved the 100 per cent record previously set by Loyola University (Chicago), Temple University, and the University of Texas. Coming closest is Georgetown University, which just reported that 270 of its 271 students are now members of the A.D.A. In the Medical College of Virginia 160 students out of 173 are A.D.A. members, in Ohio State University 228 out of 279, in Washington University of St. Louis 122 out of 157, and in the University of Southern California 186 out of 395. Scattered returns from other schools brought the total 1949 student membership to 3,277, representing 36 per cent of the total enrollment at accredited dental schools. No report has been received from eleven schools. In 1948 the A.D.A. student membership totaled 3,379.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES 71,826

Total membership of the A.D.A. reached 71,826 at the end of November to set a new all time record, it was announced by Dr. H. C. Jarvis, of Cincinnati, chairman of the Council on Membership. Included in the total are 66,300 active members, 2,147 life members and 3,379 student members. The previous high was recorded in October when the membership total was 71,618. Membership dues for 1949 are now payable, Dr. Jarvis announced as he urged all state society secretaries to report 1949 memberships daily to the Central Office. Such a procedure, he said, would avoid any interruption in subscription to THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION and other A.D.A. services to its members. The 1949 A.D.A. dues now are \$12. They were increased \$6 by authorization of the House of Delegates at its 89th annual meeting.

DEBATE OVER COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE REACHES HIGH PITCH

Arguments over announced proposals of Federal security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing to seek a national compulsory health insurance act from the new Congress soared to a high pitch this week. Most of the discussion centered around the action of the American Medical Association in voting a \$25 assessment per member to fight government control of the health services. Mr. Ewing and a number of his associates violently attacked the A.M.A. action while medical leaders proceeded with plans to collect the assessment which may total \$3,500,000 if all A.M.A. members contribute. At New York last night (Dec. 14), Mr. Ewing revealed that he was planning to ask Congress for a 4 per cent payroll tax on the first \$4,800 of income, divided equally between employer and employe, to finance his proposed program. Under this plan, a person earning \$50 a week would pay \$1 weekly for health insurance for himself and his family, Ewing said. He also revealed that his proposal would be patterned along the lines of the Social Security Act and that compensation to health practitioners would be determined on a basic set of fees for each community. As the bitter argument raged between government spokesmen and medical leaders, Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president, firmly expressed the A.D.A.'s opposition to the method of compulsory health insurance at the Greater New York Dental Meeting last week. Dr. Minges, avoiding the name-calling and emotional arguments which have been widely publicized in the nation's press, pointed out that the dental profession is opposed to the Ewing plan on scientific rather than on political grounds. Dr. Minges said, in part:

The Association long has recognized the legitimate objective of the federal government in health problems but it consistently has opposed the method of compulsory health insurance on the grounds it is a political rather than a scientific approach to the problem...Proponents of compulsory health insurance claim that the mere passage of a new federal law will lead to a Utopia of health for everyone. Such a law may be able to provide an administrative framework and money, but the hard fact remains that it cannot provide physicians, dentists, hospital, clinics and other essential personnel and facilities...With existing resources, we recognize that a higher level of dental health can be achieved by concentrating on the needs of children. It is the opinion of dental authorities...that the most efficient use of available dental services would be to devote all needed attention to dental disease in children.

DR. WALTER SCHERER NAMED DENTAL MEMBER OF FORRESTAL COMMITTEE

Last Monday (Dec. 13), Secretary of Defense James Forrestal formally announced the appointment of the over-all medical advisory committee for the nation's armed forces, consisting of twelve physicians and one dentist. The lone dental member is Dr. Walter H. Scherer of Houston, Tex., former A.D.A. president, whose appointment was forecast in the Dec. 1 issue of the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER. Chairman of the committee will be Dr. Charles Cooper, president of the board of Presbyterian Hospital at New York. Other members are Drs. Maurice Pincoffs, University of Maryland; Edward D. Churchill, Harvard University; Howard A. Rusk, New York University; Paul R. Hawley, Blue Shield executive; Richard L. Meiling, Council on National Emergency Medical Service, American Medical Association; Raymond Allen, of Seattle; Michael A. DeBakey, Baylor University; Paul Titus, of Pittsburgh, and the surgeons general of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Although the committee will serve only in an advisory capacity, it is expected to mold the over-all policy of the armed services in matters dealing with medical and dental manpower, including recommendations for a special draft of health personnel to alleviate current shortages. The committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting early next year.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Miss Harriet M. Bartlett, of Simmons College, Boston, has withdrawn from membership on the National Advisory Dental Research Council, which was appointed three weeks ago by Surgeon General Scheele. It is expected that another person active in social work will be named to fill the vacancy...Of 650 teen agers enrolled in the universal military training experiment class at Fort Knox, 88 per cent needed dental fillings, according to an Army report. Staff dentists filled 752 teeth, extracted 239 and provided 10 full dentures. Of the group, 12.2 per cent never had received dental attention and 16.8 per cent never had received medical attention.