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ada News Letter

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ADMINISTRATION LEADERS INTRODUCE COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS--TRUMAN URGES QUICK ACTION

Health problems of the nation will receive considerable attention from the 81st Congress if the number of proposals advanced by Congressmen during the first two weeks of the new Congress can be interpreted as an accurate barometer of things to come. An unusually large number of bills dealing with health matters were among the 2,000 or so measures dropped in the Senate and House hoppers by individual Congressmen since the opening session January 3. Three administration stalwarts, Senators Murray of Montana, Wagner of New York and McGrath of Rhode Island, jointly reintroduced the old Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill which calls for the establishment of a national system of compulsory health insurance which presumably would be financed by a general payroll tax. The new measure, given the number of S.-5, is unchanged in form to S.-1320 which never got out of committee in the last Congress. S.-5 was assigned to the Labor and Public Welfare Committee which is reported to have a heavy majority in favor of the administration-supported plan of providing medical, dental and other health care for most persons in the nation. In the House, Rep. Dingell (D.-Mich.) and Rep. Celler (D.-N.Y.) each introduced identical bills. The Dingell measure, H.R.-783, was assigned to the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, while the Celler bill, H.R.-345, was referred to the Ways and Means Committee. Observers interpreted this split committee referral as part of an over-all administration strategy to prevent the bill from being bottled up in a single committee in the House. It is not expected that hearings on the compulsory health insurance bills will be launched before February although the administration sponsors were carefully withholding announcements of their plans.

EXTENSIVE DENTAL SERVICES PROPOSED

All three bills call for extensive dental health services under compulsory insurance. Theoretically, all types of dental services would be available although a provision

is included authorizing a five-member National Health Insurance Board to limit or modify services where personnel, facilities or funds are inadequate to provide all services. The board also is authorized to establish "standards" for specialist service. The dental services which theoretically would be available are listed as: "(1) general dental services rendered by a dentist engaged in the general practice of dentistry, including preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic care, and periodic dental examinations; and (2) special service rendered by a dentist who is a specialist in the class of services rendered...Such services may be rendered at the office, home, hospital, or elsewhere, as necessary." In addition, the bills propose to provide general medical care, home-nursing service, hospitalization, laboratory service, x-rays, eyeglasses and other related health services. Proponents of the measures claim it will cover 85 per cent of the population. Indicating the seriousness of the administration's effort to get compulsory health insurance enacted, President Truman included an item of \$15,000,000 in his budget request to get the program in operation. In asking Congress for this appropriation, the President declared: "National health insurance is the only workable way to assure that all individuals have access to the medical care they need. I recommend the enactment of such a program this year." Signs that increasing opposition of the health professions to the program was being felt by Congress were seen in the general non-committal attitude of most Congressmen questioned on the course of action they will follow regarding the new bills. Few were willing to commit themselves either way during the early days of the current Congress.

SEEK NEW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Among the numerous health measures introduced in the new Congress is a proposal for the establishment of a new federal department with cabinet status to combine all health and welfare activities of the government. Others included proposals for increased government aid to medical and dental education, a \$100,000,000 cancer crusade, a comprehensive health program for the 2,000,000 employees of the federal government, a national science foundation, a nurse recruiting program, expansion of the public health service, and more than a score of others. Yesterday (January 14), Senator Pepper (D.-Fla), urged that President Truman join in sponsoring an omnibus health bill which would wrap up compulsory health insurance with a number of other health measures including hospital construction, research, federal aid to education, a nurse recruiting program and a dental program. Pepper said Senators Murray and Humphrey (D.-Minn.) had joined with him in requesting White House support for their blanket proposal.

LARGE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED FOR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY ON FEBRUARY 7

The first annual National Children's Dental Health Day to be held Monday, February 7, will be observed in hundreds of American cities under the sponsorship of state and component dental societies. A wide variety of programs, all designed to stimulate interest in "more and better dentistry for children," have been planned. In many states, governors and mayors have issued proclamations supporting the objectives of the state and local programs. One of the most elaborate programs will be at Cleveland where Children's Dental Health Day was founded eight years ago. Other extensive programs, including special clinics on children's dentistry for members of the profession and demonstration programs for school children, have been planned in nearly every state in the nation. Many societies have made arrangements for the use in schools of the special recordings by Hollywood stars which were recently prepared under the sponsorship of the Southern California State Dental Association. These recordings feature the voices of Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Cornel Wilde, Robert Taylor, Amos 'n Andy and Tony Martin. Copies of these recordings may be secured by order to the A.D.A. A number of contests for school children also are being sponsored by local societies in cooperation with community newspapers and radio stations. No special national program has been planned although arrangements have been made for promotion of local programs through radio networks and news services.

DR. DANIEL LYNCH IS SLATED FOR APPOINTMENT TO FORRESTAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D. C., soon will be named a member of the medical advisory committee to the secretary of defense, according to reliable sources in Washington. Dr. Lynch will be the second dental member of the committee which originally was named by Secretary Forrestal a month ago. Dr. Walter H. Scherer, of Houston, Tex., a former A.D.A. president, was named a member of the committee when it originally was established. The appointment of a second dentist was made by Secretary Forrestal at the request of an A.D.A. delegation headed by President Clyde E. Minges. In addition, the delegation asked that the dental chiefs of the three branches of the armed forces also be named to the committee. This request has been turned down on the grounds that the chiefs of both the medical and dental departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force are available as advisers to the committee and should not be members thereof. Dr. Lynch served in the Navy Dental Corps during World War II and was elected a member of the Board of Trustees at the Boston meeting in 1947 to represent the Fourth Trustee District.

NO BLANKET DEFERMENT FOR DENTAL TEACHERS

Dental school faculty members under 26 years of age are not automatically eligible for deferment under the present selective service law, according to Col. Joel D. Griffing, information chief of the manpower division of selective service. Local draft boards have final responsibility for deferment, and each case will be determined on the basis of the individual's status, Col. Griffing said.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL MEET IN CHICAGO FEBRUARY 5 TO 7

The A.D.A. Board of Trustees and a number of councils and committees will meet in Chicago in early February. The Board sessions will be held on February 5, 6 and 7 at the Central Office headquarters. Other meetings scheduled at the Central Office include: a joint session of the Council on Dental Therapeutics and the Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Chemistry, February 3 and 4, and a joint session of these two agencies and the Council on Dental Research, February 5; Council on Legislation, February 5; Council on Dental Research, February 6; Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Public Information, February 6; Council on Dental Education, February 4; Council on Scientific Session, meeting with newly appointed section officers, February 9. The Council on Insurance and the Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations also will meet in early February but dates have not yet been announced.

A.D.A. RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS REACH 46 PER CENT OF QUOTA-- ALABAMA DENTISTS SUBSCRIBE 164 PER CENT TO LEAD ENTIRE NATION



The A.D.A. Relief Fund campaign for 1948-1949 reached its midpoint January 1 with somewhat less than half of the goal of \$100,000 contributed. Receipts during the fourth accounting period, December 15 to 30, were \$9,282.16, bringing the total of the campaign to \$46,623.41. The campaign will be continued through February to provide an opportunity for all 68,664 active and life members to mail in their contributions to the Fund. To date, less than a third of the members have replied to the annual appeal for funds issued by the Council on Relief. Contributions

during the fourth accounting period (\$9,282.15) were considerably below the sum received during the preceding period (\$12,000). Several states and one territory, however, made striking gains during the fourth period. Dentists in Alabama, which soared over its quota during the first two weeks of December, sent in an additional \$486 which brought the state total to 63 per cent over its quota, high for the entire nation. North Dakota held second place with contributions amounting to 33 per cent over its quota. Alabama and North Dakota are the only states which have reached their quotas. Nebraska dentists, who had contributed only 11 per cent of their quota up to December 15, sent in \$756 to reach the 75 per cent mark. New Mexico climbed from 34 to 62 per cent, Oregon from 48 to 69 per cent and Hawaii from 51 to 82 per cent. A number of other states were over the halfway mark. They included Arizona, 60 per cent of its quota; California, 56 per cent; Southern California, 50 per cent; Connecticut, 69 per cent; Delaware, 57 per cent; District of Columbia, 51 per cent; Florida, 55 per cent; Idaho, 75 per cent; Illinois, 54 per cent; Kansas, 56 per cent; Mississippi, 56 per cent; Missouri, 58 per cent; Virginia, 51 per cent; Washington, 64 per cent. All others reported contributions of less than 50 per cent of their quota. A general slackening of returns has been noted in a preliminary check of contributions for the fifth accounting period, January 1 to 15. Officials of the Council on Relief are hopeful that last minute efforts by society officers and editors will step up the rate of contributions during the final weeks of the campaign. In accordance with a decision of the House of Delegates, the A.D.A. Relief Fund was formally incorporated on January 1 as a trust whose assets are perpetually dedicated to charity. The contributions, half of which are returned to the states, should be mailed direct to the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION RELIEF FUND, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

PHILADELPHIA AND CHICAGO MEETINGS TO DRAW LARGE CROWDS

Two of the nation's largest dental meetings will be held early in February. The Greater Philadelphia Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia County Dental Society will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, on February 2 to 4. The Annual Mid-Winter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society will be held at the Stevens Hotel on February 7 to 10. Also scheduled for early next month are the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists in Chicago on February 5 and 6 and the annual meeting of the Dental Alumni Society of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia on February 1.

FAIRMONT AND MARK HOPKINS HOTELS WILL BE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE 90TH ANNUAL A.D.A. MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO OCT. 17-20

Two hotels, the Fairmont and the Mark Hopkins, will be used as joint headquarters for the 90th annual session of the American Dental Association to be held in San Francisco on October 17 to 20. Selection of the two hotels, which are across the street from each other, was made last week by members of the local arrangements committee and a group of Central Office officials who met to make preliminary plans for the October meeting. The House of Delegates will meet at the Fairmont hotel. The general session of the convention will also be held at the Fairmont. Scientific meetings and commercial and scientific exhibits will be at the San Francisco auditorium. Adequate housing in first class hotels for all visitors will be available for the meeting. As in former years, reservations will be handled through a special housing bureau to be operated by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. The bureau will be established in June. Requests for reservations must be made on an official form which will be printed in the June issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION. No request for a hotel reservation should be made until the official forms are available.

DR. SCHEELE IS NAMED TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF DENTAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service, was elected temporary chairman of the National Advisory Dental Research Council at its organization meeting in Washington, D. C., on February 10. Council members reviewed a number of applications for federal grants to support various items of dental research. Dr. H. Trendley Dean, director of the new National Institute of Dental Research, reported that all dental research projects of the Public Health Service have been combined under his general direction at the National Institute of Health. At present, the Dental Research Institute is operating under general funds allocated to the Public Health Service. No funds were voted for the new institute by the 80th Congress which merely "authorized" an appropriation of \$2,750,000 for a new building and the first year's operation. Funds for the building were not included in President Truman's budget message to the 81st Congress last week. Whether the new Congress will vote the funds as authorized by its predecessor remains to be seen.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Gov. Earl Warren of California, last year's G.O.P. candidate for vice president, has again asked the California legislature to enact a program of compulsory health insurance for residents of that state. Gov. Warren first asked for such a measure in 1945. . . Gov. W. Kerr Scott of North Carolina stressed the need for the establishment of a new dental school in his opening message to the North Carolina legislature. He declared: "There is, also, no question as to the need of a dental school, and the proposal to build one deserves serious consideration" . . . Dr. Cyril D. Marshall-Day, of Rochester, N. Y., has been appointed dean of Tufts College Dental School to succeed Dr. Joseph Volker who resigned to become dean of the new dental school at the University of Alabama. The appointment is effective January 31. . . An example of irresponsible journalism is the article entitled, "What Should Your Dentist Charge?" published in the January issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. Both the Association and large numbers of individual dentists have protested to the editors. . . The Association also has questioned an article in Collier's magazine of January 8 which recommends the impregnation method as a measure to control caries. A statement issued by A.D.A. staff scientists described the reported success of the treatment as "premature" . . . The Navy has commissioned 100 senior dental students as ensigns, filling its quota in this category. The new ensigns will draw full pay and allowances while completing their 1948-1949 senior year in dental school. Upon graduation they will be required to accept appointments in the Navy Dental Corps and serve a minimum of two years on active duty. . . The third annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral Pathology will be held February 6 at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago. . . The American Dental Hygienists' Association has opened an office at 1830 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Miss A. Rebekah Fisk, executive secretary and A.D.H.A. editor, will be in charge.