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## ADA News Letter - 02/15/1949

American Dental Association

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# ada News Letter

Vol. 2, No. 4 - February 15, 1949

## TRUSTEES VOTE FUNDS FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION PROGRAM -- REITERATE A.D.A. OPPOSITION TO COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE

Additional appropriations of \$72,875 to finance an expanded information program concerning national health planning were voted by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees at its annual session here last week. The funds will be used to prepare and distribute to both the membership and the general public basic information relating to compulsory health insurance and other national health proposals now being advocated in Congress. In voting the funds, the Trustees reiterated the Association's all-out opposition to compulsory health insurance as a method of improving the nation's dental health. The expanded program will be carried out by the Bureau of Public Information in cooperation with the Council on Legislation, the Council on Dental Health and other agencies of the Association. The largest single item of the new appropriations, \$27,500, is earmarked for the preparation and distribution of special pamphlets and brochures suitable for distribution to the general public. All available public relations media will be utilized in the expanded program insofar as funds are available. In addition to pamphlets and brochures, material to be available under the program will include news releases, radio scripts and transcriptions, reprints, background material for talks, mats and special articles. The Board of Trustees also authorized funds for the distribution of four informational bulletins to the general membership during the next few months. The Trustees directed that as far as possible the additional funds for the expanded information program should be taken from the contingent fund of the 1949 budget and that the balance should be appropriated from general reserves of the Association. In response to a number of offers, the Trustees voted to accept voluntary contributions to the Association with the provision that such contributions would be subject to general administrative control of the Board of Trustees. The Board also approved an additional appropriation of \$5,000 for travel expenses of the Council on Legislation.

### STATE SECRETARIES TO MEET MARCH 24-26

The Board of Trustees authorized a second State Secretaries' Management Conference, which will be held at the Central Office in Chicago on March 24, 25 and 26. The conference

will be similar to the meeting of state society administrators held in Chicago last November. This three day meeting, however, will be devoted primarily to a discussion of dental public relations with special emphasis on the expanded information program relating to national health program planning approved by the Board of Trustees. Those planning to attend the conference should make reservations as soon as possible with Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary.

### A.D.A. IS REGISTERED UNDER "LOBBYING" ACT

At the direction of the Board of Trustees, the A.D.A. was registered under the federal "lobbying" act last week. The Board acted on the advice of the Association's legal advisors.

Mr. Francis Garvey, secretary of the Council on Legislation, was named as the registered agent of the Association. Under the law, Associations and their agents who are engaged in activities concerned with federal legislation are required to register and report to Congress salaries and other expenditures concerning these activities. Previously, such organizations as the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association registered under the act. In other actions, the Board of Trustees approved a recommenda-

tion of the Council on Legislation to seek a Congressional resolution establishing the first Monday in February as National Children's Dental Health Day. The Board also directed the Council on Dental Health to prepare a special budget for the 1950 Children's Dental Health Day program. As an economy measure, the Trustees directed that travel funds for meetings of councils and committees be paid only for meetings held in Chicago during 1949. Permission was granted to pay travel expenses of council and committee chairmen who attend the annual session in San Francisco next October. The Board directed that councils and committees should meet in Chicago prior to the annual session. It was estimated that the ruling of the Board would save approximately \$20,000 this year. The Trustees also ordered discontinuance of the special insurance fund which had been supported by contributions from the Great West Life Insurance Company of Canada which carries group life insurance policies for A.D.A. members. The action was taken on the grounds that the maintenance of group life insurance policies for Association members is a basic function of the Association which should not be supported by contributions from a single company. The special survey committee headed by Dr. Frederick J. Wolfe Sr., of New Orleans, was directed to study a proposal to put THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION on a subscription basis. While approving the proposal in principle, the Trustees turned down because of a lack of funds a request from the New Jersey society that a special commission be sent to England to study dental aspects of the British national health service program. Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, was authorized to represent the Association at a meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale to be held next May at Milan, Italy. While abroad, Dr. Hillenbrand is scheduled to consult with British dental leaders regarding the compulsory health insurance program in operation in the United Kingdom. A request of the Chicago Dental Society that a special meeting of the House of Delegates be held to consider compulsory health insurance was also turned down.

**REPORT \$185,021 DEFICIT  
FOR LAST HALF OF 1948**

The Association had an operating deficit of \$185,021.99 during the last six months of 1948, it was reported to the Board of Trustees. Through economies, the deficit was

\$11,344.01 less than forecast on the basis of total budget appropriations for the six-months period. Anticipated deficit had been estimated at \$196,366. Also overestimated for the period were both the operating income and total expenditures. Operating income was \$260,053.97, compared with anticipated income of \$272,050. Total expenditures during the period were \$444,075.96 or \$24,340.04 less than the total of \$468,416 budgeted for Association operations during the period.

**A.D.A. TO URGE GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES FOR FLUORIDE THERAPY;  
TO SEEK DISCONTINUANCE OF U.S.P.H. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

The Board of Trustees has approved a recommendation of the Council on Legislation that the Association urge Congress to discontinue the present topical fluoride demonstration program being carried out by the United States Public Health Service and that instead, federal grants-in-aid be made available to state health departments for state and community level programs. As originally proposed, the program was to consist primarily of demonstrations of the topical fluoride treatment. The program, according to the Council on Dental Health, would be more effective if financed through a grants-in-aid program. The U.S.P.H.S. has asked Congress for an increased appropriation for its topical fluoride program next year.

**PRINTED COPIES OF NEW CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ARE AVAILABLE**

Printed copies of the new A.D.A. Constitution and Bylaws, as adopted by the House of Delegates last September, have been distributed to Association officials, presidents and secretaries of constituent societies and secretaries of component societies. A limited number of additional copies are available for distribution to members upon request. Full text of the Constitution and Bylaws will be printed in the March issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION. Copies of TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, the proceedings of the 89th Annual Session, also have been distributed to Association officials.

## ASSOCIATION OPPOSES CREATION OF A NEW CABINET POST FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Henry Swanson, of Washington, D. C., today (Feb. 15) told the House Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments that the American Dental Association is opposed to passage of H.R. 782 which would create a new department with cabinet status for health, education and welfare activities of the federal government. The Association long has advocated the establishment of a federal department of health with a doctor of medicine as the secretary and a doctor of dentistry as the undersecretary. The Association, however, is opposed to a combination of health activities of the federal government with those relating to welfare and education. Enactment of H.R. 782 has been recommended by President Truman and last Wednesday (Feb. 9) Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing, who has his eye on the proposed cabinet post, was the sole witness to appear before the House committee. Ewing, of course, recommended speedy passage of the measure. Administration leaders moved to bring the bill to a vote in the House this Wednesday. Opposition developed from several quarters to this speedy handling of the bill and the Committee chairman, Rep. William L. Dawson (D., Ill.) scheduled additional hearings for today. Representatives of the American Medical Association, which also opposes the bill in its present form, also are scheduled to testify today. According to the Washington Report of the Medical Sciences, administration forces are hopeful that they can get H.R. 782 enacted without having it ensnarled with hearings on compulsory health insurance proposals. Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman of the Council on Legislation, is scheduled to testify before a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee tomorrow (Feb. 16) in support of the A.D.A.'s request for an appropriation of \$2,750,000 for the National Dental Research Institute. The Institute was created by the 80th Congress but no funds were appropriated for placing the Institute in operation. The Association is asking that Congress vote \$2,000,000 for building and equipment and \$750,000 for the first year's operations.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACCUSES DENTAL DEALERS OF PRICE-FIXING -- A.D.T.A. SPOKESMAN DENIES CHARGE, SAYS COMPLAINT IS UNFOUNDED

A complaint charging the American Dental Trade Association and 114 manufacturers and distributors of dental products with conspiring to eliminate competition in violation of federal law will be formally issued by the Federal Trade Commission tomorrow (Feb. 16.) The complaint contends that the association and the dealers violated the F.T.C. Act by having "carried out an unlawful agreement, combination, understanding and conspiracy to hinder, lessen, eliminate, limit and restrain" competition within the industry. The dealers named in the complaint include 48 manufacturers, 90 distributors, and six firms engaged in both manufacturing and distributing dental products. The dealers operate in 36 states and are estimated to handle approximately 75 per cent of all dental equipment and supplies sold in the United States. A formal denial of the allegations of the F.T.C. was made by Wilmoth C. Mack, of Washington, D.C., A.D.T.A. secretary. Mack charged that the complaint was "reckless and unfair" and said that the A.D.T.A. has never had anything to do with prices charged by its members. "It may be," Mack asserted, "that the F.T.C. is relying on strained inferences from hearsay statements that may have been made nearly 70 years ago by some deceased member of A.D.T.A." The F.T.C. complaint gave the respondents 20 days to file an answer to the general charges.

## A.D.A. RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS REACH \$53,208.24

On Feb. 1 total contributions in the 1948-49 A.D.A. Relief Fund campaign had reached \$53,208.24, or a little over 53 per cent of the quota. This total is a gain of \$1,523.00 over the amount reported two weeks before. Three states added significantly to their total contributions in the last half of January. Ohio contributed an additional \$337.50 to go from 45 to 52 per cent of quota, North Carolina added \$233.00 to go from 43 to 62 per cent of quota, and Kansas contributed \$138.00 to go from 60 to 72 per cent of quota. Alabama, now at 185 per cent of quota, continued to hold the lead in percentage of quota contributed. Only other state to have more than 100 per cent is North Dakota. This year's relief fund campaign will end February 28. Contributions should be mailed direct to the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION RELIEF FUND, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

## A.D.A. NEWS LETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

In response to a large number of requests, the Board of Trustees has directed that the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER be made available, at cost, to the general membership of the Association. Previous to the Board action, taken at its meeting in Chicago last week, circulation of the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER was limited by Association policy to officers, trustees, committeemen, delegates and alternate delegates of the A.D.A.; presidents, presidents-elect, editors, secretaries and treasurers of constituent societies; and presidents, secretaries and editors of component societies. The A.D.A. business staff has begun a cost study to determine the price of single and block subscriptions to the NEWS LETTER which is issued twice monthly. Announcement of subscription costs will be made soon. In the meantime, societies or individual members may order subscriptions to the NEWS LETTER subject to later billing. The Trustees pointed out that funds are not available to make the publication available free to the Association's entire membership. First of the constituent societies to place a block order for the NEWS LETTER for all of its membership is the Southern California State Dental Association.

## ARMED FORCES PLAN NEW DRIVE TO INDUCE WARTIME STUDENTS TO VOLUNTEER FOR SERVICE AS DENTAL AND MEDICAL OFFICERS

The armed forces have launched a new campaign to induce dentists and physicians who either were trained at government expense during World War II or were deferred while they secured professional training at their own expense to enlist voluntarily in the dental and medical corps. The new campaign was recommended by the recently appointed Medical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense. Failure of the campaign to fill current gaps in dental and medical strength of the armed forces, it is reported, will result in a request to Congress for authority to draft dentists and physicians in the above categories. The more critical shortages exist in the Army and Air Force dental corps. Major General Thomas L. Smith has revealed that the Army and the Air Force now have only about 900 dentists out of a total authorized strength of 2,168. The number of dental officers in the Navy is fairly close to the authorized strength. (The A.D.A. NEWS LETTER, of Nov. 15, 1948, contained erroneous information that there were four dental officers assigned to care for 1,000 men at Camp Stoneman, Calif. -- a ratio of one dentist to 250 soldiers. The report was based on a news release published in California, which, due to a typographical error, listed the figure "1,000" when it should have read "10,000." At no Army installation is the present ratio of dentists to other Army personnel anywhere near the authorized ratio of two dentists per 1,000 officers and enlisted personnel.) As the new recruiting campaign was launched, the Council on Legislation and the Council on Federal Government Dental Corps reached agreement on the draft of a bill to give the Army dental officers a parity of administration with that accorded medical officers. The draft was approved by the Board of Trustees and will be forwarded to Congress with a recommendation that the bill be enacted into law.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Capt. Robert S. Davis has been promoted to the rank of rear admiral in the Navy Dental Corps....Irwin A. Conroe, of the N. Y. State Education Department, has been named a member of the Dental Advisory Committee of the Veterans Administration. V.A. also has announced the appointment of Mrs. Frances A. Stoll as a consultant in dental hygiene.... Senator Robert Taft (R., Ohio) recently told reporters that he expects the Senate Education and Labor committee to take up the question of compulsory health insurance when it finishes its current hearings on labor legislation....The American Medical Association last Sunday made public a 12 point program as a countermeasure to compulsory health insurance. In the program the A.M.A. urged creation of a federal department of health and extension of voluntary hospital and medical care plans....Dr. Morris Fishbein, A.M.A. editor and Senator H. Alexander Smith (R., N. J.) will oppose CHI in the Feb. 22 broadcast of "America's Town Meeting of the Air" over the American Broadcasting Company network from 8:30 to 9:30 p. m. (EST). Speakers favoring CHI will be Oscar Ewing, FSA administrator, and Walter Reuther, UAW president....Dr. David J. Fitzgibbon, of Washington, D. C., has been named local arrangements chairman for the 1951 A.D.A. session there....The Ohio State Dental Association has arranged for a special train for its members planning to attend the A.D.A. session in San Francisco next October.