

American Dental Association

ADACommons

ADA News Letter

ADA Publications

4-15-1949

ADA News Letter - 04/15/1949

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](#)

News Letter

.....

Vol. 2, No. 8 - April 15, 1949

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTED TO HAVE APPROVED REQUEST FOR \$2,000,000 APPROPRIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Chances that the National Dental Research Institute may be housed in its own building within the next year were heightened considerably this week in Washington where the Senate Appropriations Committee is reported to have approved in full the A.D.A. request for \$2,000,000 for the construction of a dental research building. Confirmation of the report will not be possible until the full appropriation bill of the Federal Security Agency for the new fiscal year is reported to the Senate. The report is scheduled for presentation within the next few days. According to the report, the committee already has considered the item and approved it informally. Barring an unforeseen upset, the \$2,000,000 appropriation should be approved by the full Senate. A little over two weeks ago, five senators -- Hunt of Wyoming, Murray of Montana, Pepper of Florida and Chapman of Kentucky, Democrats, and Taft of Ohio, Republican -- joined Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, in urging the appropriations committee to approve the request for a dental research building. According to present plans, the new building will be constructed at Bethesda, Md., on the grounds of the National Institute of Health. Favorable Senate action on the item will mean that the appropriation must be considered by the House of Representatives. Earlier, the House Appropriations Committee had turned down the Association's request for the \$2,000,000 appropriation. The Bureau of the Budget also had deleted this item in its original recommendation of appropriations for FSA. The institute was created ten months ago by the 80th Congress which merely authorized but did not appropriate funds for the institute building.

NEW TRUMAN HEALTH MESSAGE TO REACH CONGRESS SHORTLY -- WILL RENEW PLEA FOR COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

President Truman's long-scheduled special message on health is expected to be sent to Congress any day now, according to reports from Washington. Sen. Pepper (D., Fla.) a leading advocate of the administration-sponsored health plan, announced following a recent White House conference that the President has been working on the message which is expected to call for a "one-package" treatment of a number of health proposals. In addition to compulsory health insurance, the President is expected to recommend enactment of federal legislation which would: subsidize medical, dental and nursing schools; increase hospital construction; stimulate medical research; provide financial aid for rural health programs; and provide direct grants for health cooperatives. An omnibus bill covering the various expected recommendations of the President has been drafted and will be introduced by a group of administration stalwarts in the House and Senate as soon as Congress receives the special message. By bracketing compulsory health insurance in an omnibus bill with other welfare proposals which have considerable popular backing, White House strategists believe it will have easier sledding than if the compulsory health insurance issue stood alone. It is not expected that the original Truman program for compulsory health insurance will be much changed in the new omnibus bill. The new bill is expected to call for financing of the proposed welfare programs by a single payroll tax of 3 per cent on earnings up to \$4,800 a year. The tax would be split evenly between employer and employee. Consideration is being given, it is reported, to

placing the same tax on the self-employed man or the man conducting his own business or profession. If this provision were enacted, dentists, physicians and others in the health professions would be automatically bracketed in the program for the so-called health benefits even if they, as professional men, decided not to participate in the program. Hearings on the proposed omnibus bill and other welfare measures will get underway within a week or two after the Truman message reaches Congress, according to plans of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. This means that the hearings may begin the last week in April or the first week in May. Such hearings may also include the Hill bill (A.D.A. NEWS LETTER, April 1) to provide federal aid to voluntary health insurance plans, and a new health bill which Sen. Taft (R., O.) now is preparing. Hearings may also be held on the school health bill (S. 1411) which calls for the appropriation of \$35,000,000 in grants-in-aid to the states to provide health care for children in public, private and parochial schools.

LOCAL DENTAL AND MEDICAL SOCIETIES ASKED TO BOLSTER SAGGING DRIVE FOR VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENTS IN ARMED FORCES

The armed forces are still plagued by critical shortages of dental and medical officer personnel, according to official announcements. Little relief has resulted from the current publicity campaign to induce former V-12's and ASTP's to enlist voluntarily for limited tours of duty. Only about 150 physicians and about 50 dentists have applied for commissions among the more than 10,000 who received personal appeals from former Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, a month ago. Up to last week about 3,000 had replied, with the overwhelming majority turning down the request for service. Pointing out that there would be a shortage of 1,160 dentists and 1,600 physicians by July, the new defense secretary, Louis Johnson, has announced that he was asking each local dental and medical society to check upon those who have refused to volunteer and those who did not answer the letters from Mr. Forrestal. Mr. Johnson is asking that society chairmen meet personally with the former ASTP's and V-12 in an effort to induce them to enlist. Mr. Johnson also has announced that he is asking hospital administrators to check with members of their staffs who received training as V-12's or ASTP's. Recently, the A.D.A. offered its cooperation in the recruiting campaign following assurances from Army Surgeon General R. W. Bliss that he had no objection to the A.D.A.-sponsored bill to secure administrative reorganization of the Army Dental Corps.

ARMY DENTAL BILL GETS DEPARTMENTAL OKAY

The A.D.A.-sponsored bills, S. 1205, sponsored by Sen. Hunt (D., Wyo.), and H. R. 3479, sponsored by Rep. River (D., S. C.), calling for an administrative reorganization of the Army Dental Corps have been given clearance by the Army Dental Corps and the Army Medical Department, according to reliable reports from the Pentagon. Both departments are now preparing formal reports suggesting a few minor language changes in the original measure. The main feature of the bills, which gives dental officers the "right and duty" to administer matters relating to dental health of Army personnel, passed departmental scrutiny without a suggested major revision, it was said. The bills have been sent on to higher levels for final consideration by defense officials before the Office of Defense decides what stand it will take when Congressional hearings are held. Departmental approval of the bills falls in line with a statement of Army Surgeon General R. W. Bliss who recently wrote the A.D.A. that he personally had no objection to the efforts of the Association to secure corrective legislation for the dental corps.

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR ANNUAL SESSION CLINICS

Application forms are now available for nomination of clinicians for the table clinic program to be presented at the 90th annual A.D.A. session in San Francisco next October, it is announced by Dr. Willard H. Hurley, of Portland, Ore., chairman of the Section on Clinics. The table clinic program will be presented Tuesday morning, Oct. 18, and Thursday afternoon, Oct. 20. Any member of the Association may nominate a clinician. Application forms may be obtained either from Dr. Hurley, Selling Building, Portland, Ore., or from Dr. L. M. Cruttenden, A.D.A. assistant secretary, in Chicago.

TOTAL A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP SHOWS GAIN OF 3,000

Total 1949 membership in the A.D.A. on March 31 was 65,116, a gain of nearly 3,000 over the corresponding total of a year ago. Figures for the first quarter of the year show a total of 56,038 regular members, 2,131 life members, and 6,947 student members. The present total of student members is more than double those of the same period a year ago. During March, an additional 295 dental students joined the A.D.A. The largest increases in student membership were reported by Emory University (from 200 to 231), New York University (from 405 to 466), Northwestern University (from 131 to 153), Tufts College (from 9 to 79), and University of Pittsburgh (from 67 to 125). During March no additional schools reached the 100 per cent mark. There are now 12 schools with perfect membership records. They are: University of Kansas City, Loyola University (Chicago), University of Louisville, Loyola University (New Orleans), University of Nebraska, University of Oregon, University of Washington, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Georgetown University, Temple University, University of Detroit, and University of Texas. Total A.D.A. membership as of March 31, 1949 and the same date last year, by constituent societies and special classifications, are as follows:

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>		<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Affiliate	0	171	New Hampshire	191	175
Alabama	427	397	New Jersey	2,632	2,552
Arizona	155	160	New Mexico	123	104
Arkansas	272	281	New York	9,050	8,714
Army	236	280	North Carolina	592	622
Associate	0	2	North Dakota	180	142
California	1,918	1,980	Ohio	2,568	2,600
Colorado	485	523	Oklahoma	553	564
Connecticut	1,052	988	Oregon	610	693
Delaware	0	82	Panama Canal Zone	16	19
District of Columbia	522	329	Pan American	187	0
Florida	632	678	Pennsylvania	4,310	4,156
Foreign	9	0	Public Health Service	101	166
Georgia	620	612	Puerto Rico	183	133
Hawaii	216	222	Rhode Island	335	299
Idaho	72	94	South Carolina	167	113
Illinois	4,711	4,490	South Dakota	203	188
Indiana	1,192	1,223	Southern California	2,369	2,503
Iowa	1,029	937	Tennessee	709	689
Kansas	650	568	Texas	1,858	1,910
Kentucky	349	635	Unorganized	1	5
Louisiana	601	554	Utah	252	223
Maine	282	272	Vermont	89	81
Maryland	633	607	Vet. Administration	576	554
Massachusetts	2,146	2,071	Virginia	597	653
Michigan	2,059	2,016	Washington	990	968
Minnesota	1,981	1,801	West Virginia	474	379
Mississippi	288	276	Wisconsin	1,858	1,731
Missouri	1,487	1,401	Wyoming	60	66
Montana	216	212			
Navy	291	389	Total Active	57,177	56,038
Nebraska	756	726	Life Members	1,794	2,131
Nevada	56	59	Student	3,276	6,947
			Grand Total	<u>62,247</u>	<u>65,116</u>

DR. WALLACE NAMED DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

Dr. Donald A. Wallace, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics, has been named director of scientific exhibits and motion pictures for the 90th annual A.D.A. session to be held in San Francisco Oct. 17 to 20. The appointment was announced by Dr. H. B. G. Robinson, of Columbus, O., chairman of the Section on Scientific Exhibits.

SPECIAL INFORMATION KIT ON COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE

A packet of special material, including suggestions for state and local dental society information programs concerning compulsory health insurance, is now being distributed to society secretaries by the Bureau of Public Information. The packet contains background material for speeches, radio scripts, news releases, suggested resolutions and other material for use by speakers' bureau, press committees and other agencies of state and local societies. Only a limited number of copies of the packets is available and they will be distributed only through society secretaries or other designated society officials.

A.D.A. OFFICIAL TO CONFER WITH DENTAL CORPS CHIEFS ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED DENTAL SERVICES FOR ARMED FORCES

Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. J., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Corps, will meet with chiefs of the dental corps of the Army, Air Force and Navy in Washington next Monday (April 18) to discuss ramifications of the current plan to unify medical and dental services for the armed forces. Such a unification has been recommended by the Hoover Commission, and the proposal is under study by the Medical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense. To date, the unification plan for the medical departments has not progressed beyond the talking stage. Little agreement has been reached on the place the dental corps will take if and when the unification scheme is put into operation. The Monday conference is expected to be primarily exploratory in nature.

NAME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Mr. Basil D. Moen, of Minneapolis, Minn., has been named assistant director of the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, effective as of May 1. Dr. Shailer Peterson will remain as acting director of the Bureau which was created by the new Constitution and Bylaws adopted last September. In general, the new Bureau has assumed functions formerly handled by the old Committee on Economics. Mr. Moen is now studying for his Ph.D. degree at the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. He formerly was a high school teacher at Tintah, Minn., and during World War II was an officer with the Fifth Air Force.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

The Veterans Administration has tentatively approved two bills sponsored by the A.D.A. to make V.A. dentists eligible for appointment as specialists and for assignment to the same top salary brackets previously open only to physicians. The bills are now pending in the House Veterans Affairs Committee....The Tennessee State Dental Association will hold a dental health workshop in Knoxville May 13-15. Speakers will include Dr. Kenneth A. Easlick, of the University of Michigan; Dr. John W. Knutson, of the U. S. Public Health Service; and Dr. Philip E. Blackerby, of Battle Creek, Mich....Dr. Percy T. Phillips, speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, will be honored with a testimonial dinner May 7 in the Statler Hotel, New York, sponsored by the First District Dental Society of New York....The British Medical Association has set up a \$4 million organization called the British Medical Guild to protect physicians' interests under the National Health Service. The guild has the power to organize and finance collective action by the profession and provide compensation to physicians suffering financial hardship under socialized medicine....Dr. John C. Brauer, director of postgraduate dental education at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, Seattle, has been appointed dean of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. He will assume his new position June 15....A new motion picture, "Getting Ready for the Dentist," may now be obtained at the A.D.A. Central Office....Dr. H. Trendley Dean, director of the National Institute of Dental Research, has been appointed an advisor to a Special Committee on American Water Works Association Policy on the Fluorination of Public Water Supplies....The Australian Labor government has passed an amendment to its 1947 "free medicine" law which forces physicians not cooperating with this scheme to pay a \$150 fine. Previously most Australian physicians had boycotted the plan.