

American Dental Association

ADACommons

[ADA News Letter](#)

[ADA Publications](#)

5-1-1949

ADA News Letter - 05/01/1949

American Dental Association

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

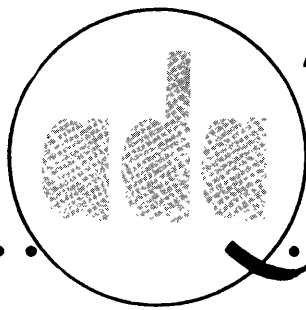


Part of the [Dentistry Commons](#), [History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Commons](#), and the [Nonprofit Administration and Management Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 05/01/1949" (1949). *ADA News Letter*. 30.
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/30>

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.



News Letter

Vol. 2, No. 9 - May 1, 1949

SENATE HEARING ON NEW COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE BILL AND OTHER MAJOR HEALTH MEASURES TO OPEN MAY 16

Public hearings on the administration's new compulsory health insurance bill, S. 1679, which was introduced last week and a number of other major health measures will begin in Washington on Monday, May 16, before a subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. Senator James Murray (D., Mont.), one of the most vigorous advocates of the Truman health program, is chairman of the subcommittee. In addition to S. 1679, the committee will hear testimony on the Taft-Smith bill, S. 1518, which proposes to make \$250,000,000 available annually in federal grants to the states for medical, hospital and, at the state's option, dental care; the Lodge bill, S. 1106, which proposes federal aid to states for medicines and services to the medically indigent; and the Hill bill, S. 1456, which proposes federal subsidies for voluntary health insurance programs. This week and next week, the Murray sub-committee will hear testimony on a number of other health measures including S. 1651 which authorizes establishment of special research projects at the discretion of the Surgeon General; S. 614 which proposes increased federal aid for hospitals and local public health units; and a number of other bills dealing with proposed federal research projects relating to epilepsy, arthritis, rheumatism and cerebral palsy. It is expected that the hearings on the major health bills will run into mid-summer although Sen. Murray has said he hopes to conclude the hearings in four to five weeks.

NEW HEALTH MEASURES FOLLOW OLD PATTERN

The administration's new omnibus health bills, which were introduced in both houses of Congress on April 25, following President Truman's special health message to Congress, recommended the same compulsory health insurance program as proposed in the old Murray-Wagner-Dingell bills introduced last January. The principal difference is that a number of less controversial measures such as federal aid for hospitals, dental and medical education, research, and local health facilities are tied in with compulsory health insurance. The compulsory health insurance section of the bills, as usual, avoided any direct provision for taxes to support the program. The bills merely authorize Congress to appropriate sums equal to 3 per cent of the first \$4,800 of all salaries, instead of \$3,600 as stipulated in the earlier measures. Another difference is that the leading sponsor of the Senate bill is Sen. Elbert D. Thomas (D., Utah), chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, rather than Sen. Murray. The day before the bill was introduced newspapers quoted Senator Thomas as saying that the administration did not expect to get action on this new measure until the 1950 session of Congress. In addition to Thomas and Murray, sponsors of the Senate bill included Senators Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.), Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), Dennis Chavez (D., N. M.), Glen H. Taylor (D., Ida.) and Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.). Simultaneously with the introduction of S. 1679, companion bills were introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Andrew J. Biemiller (D., Wisc.) and John D. Dingell (D., Mich.). The Dingell bill was given the number of H.R. 4312 and the Biemiller bill, H.R. 4313.

MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE NEW BILL

In an introductory statement the proponents made the claim that the eventual total cost in payroll taxes of health services offered under the new bills would be approximately 6 billion dollars a year. They did not, however, estimate the cost of carrying out the six other titles of the bill. Under the first title, "Aid to Medical Education," there are three sections; aid to existing schools, expansion and construction, and medical

scholarships. The first section would offer dental schools a subsidy of \$250 for each student enrolled up to average enrollment for the past three years and \$1,300 for each new student above that average. Provision is also made for aid to schools of dental hygiene. The second section proposes to aid states on a 50-50 grants-in-aid basis in the construction of new facilities, including dental schools, and in the expansion of old facilities. The third section would authorize appropriations for scholarships in health education, including dental school training. Recipients of scholarships would have to agree to serve one year for each two academic years as an employee of state or federal agencies or in an area designated by such agencies. Title II, "Medical Research," gives broad authority, subject to appropriation limitations, to carry out research in many fields. Though dental research is not specifically mentioned as being the recipient of these appropriations, one section under the title does provide for the establishment of a national advisory council for dental research. Title III would double the appropriation for hospital construction now offered under the Hill-Burton Act. Title IV is an elaborate and complicated set of provisions designed to relieve shortages of health personnel and facilities in rural and other areas. Titles V and VI expand present laws providing grants-in-aid for state and local public health departments and for maternal and child health and crippled children's services. Title VII provides for compulsory health insurance. It is the only one of the seven which is not included in other pending legislation with strong bi-partisan support.

WELFARE GROUPS OPPOSE TRUMAN HEALTH PROPOSALS

Several additional organizations have voiced their opposition to compulsory health insurance. At Hollywood, Fla., last week, delegates to the General Federation of Women's Clubs went on record as opposed to government control of the health services. In a resolution adopted by an overwhelming majority, the federation went on record favoring voluntary health insurance as the most effective means of making needed health services available to all citizens of the United States. Earlier the Bureau of Health and Hospitals of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the National Conference of Catholic Charities and the Catholic Hospital Association issued a joint 20-page statement denouncing compulsory health insurance and supporting the principles of S. 1581, the new Taft bill designed to coordinate the health functions of the government and subsidize state indigent care programs. The National Catholic Welfare Council supported the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill in 1946. The Christian Liberty Committee of the National Association of Evangelicals also recently went on record as being opposed to compulsory health insurance.

SENATE SENDS FEDERAL SECURITY APPROPRIATION BILL BACK TO COMMITTEE -- DELAYS ACTION ON DENTAL RESEARCH FUNDS

The proposed \$2,000,000 appropriation for construction of a building for the National Institute of Dental Research received a serious set back last week when the Senate, in a surprise move, returned the Federal Security Agency-Labor Department appropriations bill to committee with instructions to cut \$15,000,000 from the recommended departmental budgets. Previously, the full Senate had approved an amendment to the FSA appropriation bill providing \$2,000,000 for the dental research building. What degree the dental research item would be cut as a result of the new action is problematical. The entire Republican membership and seven Democrats joined to send the appropriation bill back to committee.

PLAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON JUNE 27

A special conference on problems relating to dental libraries, indexing and nomenclature will be held June 27 at the A.D.A. Central Office in Chicago. Dr. Donald Washburn, recently appointed director of the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, is in charge of the program. Expected to participate in the one-day session are members of the Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, headed by Dr. John Gurley, of San Francisco, librarians of a number of dental schools and representatives of the various dental specialties. The latter have been invited to discuss nomenclature problems. On the following day (June 28) a special demonstration of microfilm and microcard equipment will be staged for those wishing to attend.

MOST MAJOR DENTIFRICE MANUFACTURERS RUSH PLANS TO OFFER NEW AMMONIATED PRODUCTS TO THE PUBLIC

Nearly all of the major dentifrice manufacturers are planning to enter the market with ammoniated products in the immediate future, according to industry reports. Intensive consumer advertising of the new products can be expected this spring and summer as the old-line concerns move in to compete with the handful of newcomers which have been pushing the sale of dentifrices containing dibasic ammonium phosphate and urea during recent months. While most of the ammoniated dentifrices on the market to date are in powder form, several concerns are experimenting in an effort to find methods for stabilizing the ammonium compound in a tooth paste. Only two ammoniated dentifrices, Amurol and Dybasik, have been accepted for clinical trial by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics, and none has been given full approval. (Acceptance for clinical trial is a classification recently adopted by the Council for new therapeutic products which meet reasonable standards of safety when used according to directions and which may have therapeutic value.) Latest of the old-line dentifrice firms to announce a new ammoniated tooth powder is Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company. Its new product will be introduced during the week of May 9, backed by newspaper, magazine and radio advertising. Other major concerns which already have ammoniated dentifrices on the market are the Whitehall Pharmacal Company (Kolynos), Sterling Drug Company (Dr. Lyons) and Rexall Drug Company. Firms reported considering plans for new ammoniated lines include Lehn & Fink Products (Pebeco), Pepsodent division of Lever Brothers and Bristol-Myers (Ipana). The latter two, however, have issued no formal announcement of their plans. Meanwhile, large scale advertising of Amm-i-dent (Block Drug Company) is continuing. Amurol Products Company, which has been advertising to dentists, last month started consumer advertising and will have its first magazine copy in the May 9 issue of Life magazine. In addition, a number of other firms have begun advertising campaigns for new ammoniated dentifrices. The Council on Dental Therapeutics has published reports on many of these products in THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION. Reports on the other new products will be published in future issues of THE JOURNAL.

OPEN HOUSING BUREAU FOR A.D.A. MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO

The A.D.A. Housing Bureau which will handle all reservations for the 90th annual session of the A.D.A. to be held at San Francisco, Oct. 17 to 20, has been formally opened at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium and is now accepting applications for hotel accommodations. Blanks for making applications for hotel rooms are published on pages A-24 and A-25 of the current issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION. All applications for housing must be made on the prepared forms and sent to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 200 Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, 2, Calif. San Francisco is a city of a large number of excellent but small hotels. Approximately 100 hotels are cooperating with the A.D.A. to provide housing facilities for all dentists and their families planning to attend the annual session. Only about 20 hotels are listed on the application forms because of limited space. Extra copies of the reservation forms may be secured from the Housing Bureau and the A.D.A. Central Office.

NEW DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FILM, "IT'S YOUR HEALTH," IS AVAILABLE THRU SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

A new dental health education sound film entitled, "It's Your Health," is now being distributed nationally through the Southern California State Dental Association. The new production stresses through the medium of a dramatic story the importance of dental health. The film was produced by Apex Film Corporation headed by Mr. Jack Chertok, former head of MGM Short Subject Department. Veteran character actor Art Baker heads the case of professional players who appear in the production. Copies of the film (16 mm. black and white) may be obtained from the Southern California State Dental Association, 903 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, 6, Calif. Full price, including reel, mailing case and express charges, is \$75.

COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE DEBATE SPONSORED BY CINCINNATI DENTAL SOCIETY WILL BE AIRED SUNDAY NIGHT OVER MUTUAL NETWORK

The Cincinnati Dental Society and the Cincinnati Post are co-sponsors of a public debate on the subject, "Federalized Medicine," which will be staged Sunday evening (May 8) in Taft Auditorium, Cincinnati. The Mutual network will broadcast a portion of the debate at 9:30 p.m. EST. (In different communities, the program will be broadcast at different hours. It is suggested that interested individuals check with local radio stations of the Mutual network for the exact time of the broadcast in their communities.) Mr. Carl D. Groat, editor of the Post, will be the moderator. Speakers will be Dr. Harold Oppice, Chicago, A.D.A. trustee for the 8th (Illinois) district; Dr. Paul Hawley, Chicago, chief executive officer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Commissions; Congressman Andrew J. Biemiller, Milwaukee, one of the sponsors of the new compulsory health insurance bill before Congress; and Mr. Lester Velie, New York, a member of the editorial staff of Collier's magazine.

N.P.C. REPORTS RECEIPTS OF \$230,493

The National Physicians Committee, which has voted to disband, listed contributions of \$230,493 during the first quarter of 1949 in a report filed with Congress in accordance with the Lobbying Act. The bulk of the contributions came from big drug houses with two giving \$30,000 each. Expenses of N.P.C. during the same period were listed in the report as \$130,969. According to the Washington Report of the Medical Sciences, other reports filed with Congress showed that the Committee for the Nation's Health, proponent of compulsory health insurance, had an income of \$40,084 and expenses of \$23,865 for the three-months period. The American Medical Association reported that as of April 7 its educational fund being raised by a \$25 assessment on physicians amounted to \$1,151,633.70. During the quarter, A.M.A. paid its public relations counsellors, Whitaker and Baxter, \$115,248.22 of which \$76,654.15 was reported as expenses. The American Hospital Association reported expenditures of \$13,418.28, the American Dental Association, \$4,916.44, and the American Optometric Association, \$2,097.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. H. Trendley Dean, director of the National Institute of Dental Research, has been named by the Association of Military Surgeons for the 1949 Gorgas Award "for outstanding contributions in the field of military medicine"....A recent Gallup Poll on the issue of compulsory health insurance reported that only 33 per cent of the population favors President Truman's program for national compulsory health insurance. A total of 47 per cent was listed as supporting the voluntary insurance program recommended by the A.M.A.; 7 per cent said they favored neither and 13 per cent said they had no opinion....Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president, and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, were commissioned as "Arkansas Travellers" by Gov. Sid McMath during the recent annual session of the Arkansas State Dental Association....The Pennsylvania State Dental Society has begun publication of a service letter for state and district society officials. The Tennessee State Dental Association also has launched a new news letter for its members....The "moral suasion" campaign of the armed forces to recruit voluntarily A.S.T.P. and V-12 trained dentists and physicians for current duty has resulted in only 317 applications for commissions according to the Washington Report of the Medical Sciences. This figure represents only 3.5 per cent of the estimated potential of young dentists and physicians who are the object of the campaign....Two top A.D.A. officials will be honored at testimonial banquets this month. Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, first speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, will be the guest of honor at a dinner at the Statler Hotel, New York, on May 7. President Minges will be honored at a special banquet to be staged at the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, N. C. on May 20....The new 454-page Occupational Outlook Handbook prepared for the V.A. by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, reported that the profession of dentistry offers "excellent opportunities" for new graduates....The Maryland legislature has memorialized Congress not to pass a compulsory health insurance bill.