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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 90th A. D. A. SESSION
SAN FRANCISCO - Oct. 17 to 20



Vol. 2, No. 11, June 1, 1949

**A.D.A. REPRESENTATIVE TESTIFIES AGAINST COMPULSORY
HEALTH INSURANCE BEFORE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES**

Official opposition of the American Dental Association to the administration's new compulsory health insurance bills now before Congress was presented by Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, of Minneapolis, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, in appearances before committees of both the House and Senate in Washington last Wednesday (May 25). In a detailed statement, Dr. Flagstad pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the nation's practicing dentists is opposed to enactment of a national system of compulsory health insurance because such a scheme would result in a deterioration of dental health services to the people. On the same day that Dr. Flagstad made his official appearance in the Capitol, Senator Scott W. Lucas (D., Ill.), the majority leader, announced that the administration has decided to postpone formal consideration of President Truman's health program until 1950. Sen. Lucas announced, following a White House conference, that the remaining months of the present session of Congress would be devoted to consideration of other administration measures such as repeal of Taft-Hartley, ratification of the Atlantic Pact and enactment of housing and other welfare legislation. Leaders of both Houses of Congress have announced that they expect the current session to be adjourned sometime in August. Both Sen. Lucas and House Majority Leader McCormack (D., Mass.), however, have warned that the session may be extended to cover major parts of the Truman program. Sen. Lucas, in a letter to CIO President Philip Murray yesterday, said that the administration will "try again to obtain action" on the civil rights bills as well as other parts of the administration's social welfare program now on the doubtful list for this session. Despite the decision to postpone consideration of compulsory health insurance bills until 1950, there was no lessening of White House pressure for eventual enactment of the bills. It is generally agreed by Washington observers that compulsory health insurance will be a major campaign issue of administration forces next year.

**TWO NEW COUNTER-MEASURES
PROPOSED BY G.O.P. MEMBERS**

Congressional hoppers, already bulging with various health measures, were swelled further last week when two new bills were introduced by

Republican congressmen in an effort to forestall compulsory health insurance. Rep. A. L. Miller (Neb.) introduced a bill (H.R. 4874) to create a Medical Care Investigation Commission which would be authorized to conduct an 18-month study of health services in the United States and England. A group of nine G.O.P. Representatives and Senators -- Senators Ives (N. Y.) and Flanders (Vt.) and Representatives Nixon (Calif.), Case (N. J.), Fulton (Pa.), Hale (Me.), Herter (Mass.), Javits (N. Y.) and Morton (Ky.) -- introduced a new measure calling for a voluntary health insurance system to extend health care to all segments of the population. The sponsors said their bill would "avoid the errors of state socialism," and would provide the same health care to the poor and the well-to-do at a cost scaled to individual income. The

plan would be voluntary for health practitioners, hospitals and individuals alike. It would be supported by contributions based on a percentage of the individual's income ranging from a minimum of 3 per cent of income up to \$5,000 annually to a maximum percentage to be determined by state or local groups. To participate in the proposed plan, each state would have to pass a law authorizing state officials to establish state health councils which would be in general control of the program. The bill provides, however, that states may be divided into regions with control of the health program vested in local boards. State and federal aid would be available to make up the difference between costs and total contributions from subscribers. In addition, the new bill proposes, as does the present compulsory health insurance plan, to provide federal aid for dental and medical schools, grants for hospital construction and increased assistance from the federal government to local public health units. Cost of the plan for the first year has been estimated at \$3,000,000. In four years, it was estimated, the plan would cost the government about \$850,000,000 annually. The key point in the new plan, according to the sponsors, is that it would avoid flat-rate premiums that have made present plans too expensive for low-income families. "This legislation," they said, "contemplates hundreds of such non-profit voluntary plans, each locally organized and operated. It will use existing plans, enable them to expand and open the way for new plans throughout the country."

HEARINGS ON HEALTH BILLS TO CONTINUE THROUGH JUNE

Whether the latest health bills will be scheduled for hearing by the Senate and House committees could not be learned immediately. The Senate

subcommittee on health, headed by Sen. Murray (D., Mont.), was scheduled to continue hearings for several weeks on the administration's compulsory health insurance bill (S. 1679), the Taft-Smith bill (S. 1581) which stresses the use of federal and state funds to provide care for the indigent, the Hill bill (S. 1456) which proposes subsidies for voluntary health insurance plans, and a number of other measures. The House subcommittee on health, headed by Rep. Priest (D., Tenn.), will resume hearings on compulsory health insurance on June 7. Witnesses scheduled to be heard by the Murray committee this week include Dr. Paul R. Hawley, chief executive officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, representatives of the Catholic Hospital Association and the American Protestant Hospital Association and spokesmen for various labor groups. Witnesses scheduled for appearance before the House subcommittee on June 7 and 8 include a representative of the National Dental Association.

DR. FLAGSTAD ASKS CONGRESS TO SUPPORT A.D.A. PROGRAM

In identical statements presented before the House and Senate subcommittees, Dr. Flagstad urged Congress to discard compulsory health in-

insurance schemes in favor of the Association's program calling for expanded research in an effort to discover new means of preventing and controlling dental disease. He also urged support of programs designed to intensify dental health education for both children and adults and the establishment of community programs to make dental care available to all children. Dr. Flagstad said that the A.D.A. long has recognized that there are "certain weaknesses in the distribution of our dental health services" and reminded the committees that the A.D.A. has repeatedly appeared before Congress to solicit enactment of sound legislation which would help meet the nation's dental health problems. He said that dentists are particularly opposed to compulsory health insurance because it would tend to shift emphasis away from preventive procedures to a mass repair program and thus fail to bring about any improvement in the nation's dental health. The A.D.A. spokesman pointed out that some government officials have led many people to believe that a national system of compulsory health insurance financed by payroll taxes would be "a panacea for the difficulties of the care and expenses associated with illness....It is a fallacy to assume the collection of money at the federal level and channeling it into health care will make available adequate health service to everyone and guarantee a better level of health for our people than now exists. If the Congress should enact this bill, it will saddle the government with a gigantic task it cannot possibly discharge in the manner the people have been led to believe health services will be available under this proposed legislation." Dr. Flagstad also pointed out the fallacy of describing the plan as insurance. "The proposals cannot be carried out as sound insurance practice," he said. "Insurance is a method for providing protection against loss or a damaging event by spreading risks among a large number of potential claimants. The funds collected from insured persons are used to pay insurance claims, administrative costs and, in case of commercial agencies, dividends. In other words, a financially sound insurance plan is based on known actuarial experience; it

is self-supporting through the collection of premiums, and it guarantees stipulated benefits.... The scheme would not be self-supporting, nor would it assure the provision of benefits to all persons covered under the plan. Thus the system is not insurance, but actually is only a method for collecting additional taxes."

**SEN. MURRAY COMMENDS
6 POINT A.D.A. PROGRAM**

A six-point program enunciated by Dr. Flagstad as the basis for the establishment of a sound dental health program for the American people was

praised by Senator Murray in a brief questioning of Dr. Flagstad during the Senate hearing. This program calls for: 1-Expansion of dental research and the use of new preventive technics as soon as they are demonstrated to be valid; 2-Establishment and expansion of community dental programs to make dental care and dental health education available to every child; 3-Establishment of additional dental facilities in hospitals and health centers; 4-Recruitment of capacity enrollments at all dental schools to increase the number of dentists; 5-Adoption of measures to encourage more dentists to practice in smaller cities and rural areas; and 6-Greater use of dental hygienists as auxiliary aids to the profession.

**SECOND STATE SECRETARIES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
WILL BE HELD AT A.D.A. HEADQUARTERS ON JUNE 13-15**

More than 25 state dental societies will be represented at the Second State Secretaries' Management Conference which will be held at the A.D.A. Central Office on June 13, 14 and 15. The three-day program will be devoted to a consideration of dental public relations with emphasis on the current information program of the Association designed to acquaint the public with the basic issues involved in compulsory health insurance proposals. Two public relations authorities -- Mr. Lars Carlson, district representative of the Oil Industry Information Committee, and Mr. Kenneth J. Ward, vice president of J. Walter Thompson Company -- will speak at the opening sessions of the conference. Others who will appear on the program will include Mr. L. T. Maloney, of Boston, lay assistant to the president of the Massachusetts Dental Society; Mr. James Robinson of Los Angeles, executive secretary of the Southern California State Dental Association; Dr. Charles A. Wilkie, of Brooklyn, secretary of the Dental Society of the State of New York; Mr. T. T. McLean, of Nashville, executive secretary of the Tennessee State Dental Association; Dr. Carl V. E. Cassel, of St. Paul, secretary of the Minnesota State Dental Association; Dr. John G. Carr, of Camden, secretary of the New Jersey State Dental Society; Mr. Ray Cobaugh, of Harrisburg, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania State Dental Society; Mr. Edgar T. Stephens, of Chicago, program director of the Chicago Dental Society; Dr. Charles H. Jamieson, of Detroit, chairman of the Advisory Committee to the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information; and several members of the A.D.A. Central Office staff. Dr. L. M. Cruttenden, A.D.A. assistant secretary, will preside.

**ARMY ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO A.D.A. - SPONSORED BILLS
CALLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN DENTAL CORPS**

The Department of the Army will oppose enactment of legislation sponsored by the A.D.A. to provide for administrative reorganization of the Army Dental Corps, it was revealed recently by Gordon Gray, acting Secretary of the Army. In a letter to Senator Tydings (D., Md.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Gray said that the Army is opposed to the legislation on the grounds that it "would tend to fix by statute the duties and powers of a particular corps within the Army." Mr. Gray said that such a tendency is "contrary to the recommendation of the Hoover Commission." Two identical bills proposing that dental officers be granted a parity of administration with medical officers are pending in Congress. They are: S. 1205, introduced by Senator Hunt (D., Wyo.) and H. R. 2479, introduced by Rep. Rivers (D., S. C.). The bills would provide that the head of the Army Dental Corps be an assistant surgeon general and that dental officers would be given control of all matters relative to the dental health of Army personnel. Hearings on the bills are scheduled for mid-June. Pointing out that the legislation is necessary to prevent a recurrence of administrative injustices which hampered dental officers during World War II, A.D.A. officials said they would continue to press for passage of the legislation despite the official opposition of the Army. Several weeks ago, Army Surgeon General Bliss informed A.D.A. officials that he had no personal objection to the legislation.

COUNCIL ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DENTAL CORPS WILL HOLD OPEN MEETING IN CHICAGO JUNE 16-17

Problems relating to the various dental corps of the federal government will be considered at a meeting of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Corps to be held at the A.D.A. Central Office on June 16, 17 and 18. The first two days of the meeting will be open to any interested individual, according to Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. Y., council chairman. Sessions on Thursday, June 16, will be devoted to consideration of the formulation of a standard policy for the functional relationships between dentistry and medicine in the federal corps. Friday's session will consider problems associated with the dental program of the Veterans Administration. Other A.D.A. agencies have scheduled meetings in Chicago as follows: Council on Relief, June 20; Council on Hospital Dental Service, June 29; Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, June 27; Council on Dental Education, June 30 to July 3; Council on Dental Health, July 9 to 11; and Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, July 17 and 18.

DR. G. WALTER DITTMAR, PAST A.D.A. PRESIDENT, DIES

Dr. G. Walter Dittmar, who was president of the A.D.A. in 1932-1933, died at his home in Chicago on May 18. He was 77 years of age. Dr. Dittmar was graduated from Northwestern University dental school in 1898 and had taken an active role in organized dentistry for more than half a century. In 1900 he served as a delegate at the Third International Dental Congress in Paris. He was president of the Chicago Dental Society in 1911 and was president of the Illinois State Dental Society in 1920. He was honorary chairman of the 89th A.D.A. annual session held in Chicago last September. For several years Dr. Dittmar was a professor of prosthetic dentistry at the University of Illinois. He is survived by his widow, Agnes, and three children, two daughters and a son, Dr. G. Walter, Jr., who is a practicing dentist in Chicago.

RECORD NUMBER OF EXHIBITS BOOKED FOR 90th A.D.A. SESSION TO BE HELD AT SAN FRANCISCO ON OCT. 17 TO 20

The largest number of commercial exhibits in the history of the Association will be on display at the 90th annual A.D.A. session to be held at San Francisco on Oct. 17 to 20. Reservations for exhibit space already are in excess of those at the Boston and Chicago annual sessions, according to Mr. John J. Hollister, A.D.A. business manager. Scientific and health exhibits are also expected to set a new record at the San Francisco meeting. Advance hotel reservations for the meeting are now being accepted by the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 200 Civic Auditorium, San Francisco. Forms for making applications for housing accommodations are published on pages A-36 and A-37 in the June issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A recent survey conducted by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education reveals that recent dental graduates are passing state board examinations much more easily than are graduates of earlier years. In 1947, the survey revealed, 90 per cent of the new dental graduates passed state boards whereas only 69 per cent of those who were graduated in the period from 1927 to 1946 were passed....Raymond B. Allen, president of the University of Washington, has been offered the post of director of new Medical Services Division of the armed forces, according to the Washington Report On the Medical Sciences. The division was created in mid-May by Defense Secretary Louis Johnson for over-all control of the health corps of the Army, Navy and Air Force....Dr. Clifton O. Dummett, professor of dentistry and dean of the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, has been appointed chief of the dental service at the Tuskegee (Ala.) Veterans Administration hospital. Dr. Dummett's appointment will be effective August 1....The American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Massachusetts Dental Society are among groups which recently have passed resolutions opposing enactment of compulsory health insurance legislation....Approximately 1,200 dental and medical students will take part in the summer training program of the R.O.T.C....Dr. Henry S. Dunning, professor emeritus of dentistry at Columbia University, was honored May 20 by the School of Dental and Oral Surgery with a special plaque dedicated in his honor.