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6-17-1949

## ADA News Letter - 06/17/1949

American Dental Association

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### Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 06/17/1949" (1949). *ADA News Letter*. 34.  
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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 90th A. D. A. SESSION  
SAN FRANCISCO - Oct. 17 to 20



# News Letter

Vol. 2, No. 12, June 17, 1949

## **DR. CARL O. FLAGSTAD, A.D.A. LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN, DIES SUDDENLY AT MINNEAPOLIS FOLLOWING HEART ATTACK**

Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, of Minneapolis, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, died at 8:30 p. m. Thursday (June 16) following a heart attack. His death came shortly after he had prepared testimony to be delivered next Monday (June 20) before Congress in support of the Army Dental bill sponsored by the A.D.A. For many years, Dr. Flagstad had been active in dental association affairs. He had served as chairman of the Council on Legislation for the past five years and was reelected to this position by the House of Delegates last September despite his announced wish to retire from active service with the Council. Dr. Flagstad was born June 10, 1888, in Minneapolis and was a graduate of the School of Dentistry of the University of Minnesota. Shortly after his graduation he joined the faculty of the dental school and had served as a professor of dentistry for 38 years. He served as a dental officer in World War I. He was a former president of the Minneapolis District Dental Society and the Minnesota State Dental Association and had held numerous positions with the A.D.A. From 1940 to 1946 he was secretary-treasurer of the American Association of Dental Schools and was slated to be elected president-elect of this organization at its annual meeting to be held in Chicago on June 27. High tribute to Dr. Flagstad for his many years of devotion and service to the dental profession was paid by Dr. Clyde E. Minges, A.D.A. president, and other leading dentists throughout the nation. Dr. Flagstad is survived by his widow and four children.

## **DR. HILLENBRAND REPORTS ON BRITISH HEALTH ACT -- HEALTH MINISTER ORDERS NEW 20% CUT IN DENTAL FEES**

A new reduction of 20 per cent in fees placed in effect on June 1 for all dentists participating in the British national health program is the government's direct reply to the sky-rocketing costs of the dental program in the United Kingdom, Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, reported to the State Secretaries' Management Conference in Chicago on June 15. The dental profession, he indicated, has never been given the assurance (which has been given the medical profession) that the government's eventual goal would not be placing all dentists on a straight salary basis. Dr. Hillenbrand returned to the United States last Saturday following a three-week trip to Europe during which he conferred with leading British dentists, government dental officers and Health Minister Aneurin Bevan. He also attended the annual meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale at Milan, Italy. While pointing out that he had had insufficient time to check into all details of the British dental health program, Dr. Hillenbrand said that his conferences with government officials made it plain that the government would continue to press for a reduction in the over-all costs of the program. Officials of the health service admit quite frankly, he said, that they now find themselves in a position where dental costs have far exceeded estimates. As a result, he pointed out, the government is apparently determined to force dentists into a position of accepting lowered incomes. As of May 15, a month ago, a total of 94.7 per cent of all dentists in the United Kingdom were participat-

ing in the government program. Two factors have induced the overwhelming majority of British dentists to join in the program: 1 - the fairly high fees originally promised by the government, and 2 - the very high income taxes which have forced nearly all individuals to stretch their incomes by accepting the "free" health services offered by the government. It is now obvious, Dr. Hillenbrand continued, that British dentists have been maneuvered into a position where they are almost defenseless against the arbitrary regulations of the government.

#### BRITISH DENTAL GROUPS NOW PLANNING TO MERGE

Leaders of the three dental associations in the British Isles have now effected a merger so that the profession can present a united front toward the government. Present plans now call for the merger to become effective in the next few months. A great deal of the difficulties which the dental profession is now encountering in Britain, Dr. Hillenbrand said, resulted from the lack of unity in the profession during original negotiations with the government. Another major factor, Dr. Hillenbrand explained, has been the fact that the dental program was put into operation without mature consideration of the basic technical problems associated with dentistry. As an example, Dr. Hillenbrand pointed out that the demand for dental care under the program is running two and one-half times that originally estimated by the government planners. The situation is so serious that the health ministry has ordered a time study of dental operations to determine the amount of dental services which should be performed by the individual dentist in a 33 hour week. This study, as were previous studies, is being conducted by a committee composed predominantly of laymen.

#### SERVICES FOR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CUT SHARPLY

In actual operation, the national health program has resulted in a reduction rather than an expansion of dental health services for children as originally promised by the government, Dr. Hillenbrand said. To date, about 15 per cent of the dentists formerly connected with the school health service have resigned and government officials expect the resignation figure may reach higher points in the near future. Thus, Dr. Hillenbrand said, the health service is destroying a sound children's program previously established rather than providing extra benefits for that section of the population which needs it most. Another serious problem has been created by the government's failure to provide funds for dental research as a basic part of its program. For the present year, it is estimated that only \$10,000 is available for dental research in the entire British Isles.

#### CIVILIAN CLERKS RULE ON DENTAL DIAGNOSES

One of the principal complaints of dental leaders, Dr. Hillenbrand reported, is that government clerks are ruling on "estimates" for dental treatments beyond simple fillings and other less-serious operations. All such "estimates" are referred to a claims board on which there are only eight dentists. With some 6,300,000 claims already received, it is obvious, he pointed out, that the decisions -- in effect, the actual evaluation of diagnoses -- are being made by lay personnel with no dental training or experience.

#### F.D.I. URGES PRIORITY TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

The Federation Dentaire Internationale, aware of the trend of health programs throughout Europe, unanimously approved a resolution urging that no national government should undertake a comprehensive dental treatment program without first making provisions for adequate dental care for all children. Dr. Hillenbrand was one of three American dentists who attended sessions of the F.D.I. in Milan on May 30 to June 4. Others included Dr. Gordon Hill of Topeka, Kas., and Dr. Bruce Forsyth, dental director for the United States Public Health Service. Dr. Ch. F. Nord, of Amsterdam, F.D.I. president, presided at the five-day meeting of delegates from more than a score of nations. Two new officers were elected: Dr. W. Stewart Ross, of London, Treasurer, and Dr. J. de Wever, of Brussels, assistant treasurer. The next annual meeting of the Federation will be held at Paris in late July 1950. Plans were also made for the 11th International Dental Congress to be held in London in 1952.

## CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WILL HEAR TESTIMONY JUNE 20 ON ARMY DENTAL CORPS BILLS SPONSORED BY THE A.D.A.

Public hearings on the A.D.A.-sponsored bills calling for administrative reorganization of the Army Dental Corps have been scheduled for Monday, June 20, before Armed Services subcommittees of both the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington. The Senate subcommittee will consider S. 1205, introduced by Senator Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.), while the House subcommittee will consider an identical bill, H. R. 2479, introduced by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D., S.C.). Dr. T. J. McDermott, of Cleveland, vice chairman of the Council, will head the delegation of A.D.A. witnesses at the hearings. Others scheduled to testify are: Col. O. G. Skelton, a retired Army dentist from Dallas, Texas; Dr. W. R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., an Army Dental Corps veteran of World War II; Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. Y., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Corps; and Mr. Francis J. Garvey, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation. Also testifying Monday will be representatives of the Department of the Army which recently announced its opposition 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." The A.D.A. delegation will urge adoption of the legislation as the only means of providing dental officers the necessary professional control of oral health matters in the Army.

## COMPLETE PROGRAM FOR LIBRARY CONFERENCE, JUNE 27

Eighteen dental libraries from thirteen states will be represented at the special library conference to be held in the A.D.A. Central Office, Chicago, June 27. The program will feature discussion of problems relating to dental libraries, indexing and nomenclature, and a joint evening meeting with the American Association of Dental Schools. Planned under the guidance of Dr. John Gurley, chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, the program will be presided over by Dr. Thomas D. Speidel, member of the advisory committee, and Dr. Donald Washburn, director of the A.D.A. library. Although planned as a one-day session, facilities will be made available on the following day to all members of the conference who wish to continue discussions of specific problems.

## UNITED MINE WORKERS INCLUDE DENTISTRY IN HEALTH PROGRAM

Dentistry will be included in the expanded health program of the United Mine Workers of America, according to the reports from Washington. This \$100 million-plus program, which previously limited its benefits to disabled and pensioner members of the UMWA, now has extended its medical and hospital services to all employed members of the union and their dependents. With 400,000 members eligible for these benefits, large numbers of dentists, physicians, and hospitals in the country's 26 coal-producing states will be directly affected by the increase. Under the present system, pre-authorization is dispensed with and patients may go directly to the physicians and dentists of their choice without having to get a UMWA order in advance.

## DR. ALLEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Another step in Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson's program to unify the Armed Forces medical services came last week when Dr. Raymond B. Allen was appointed director of medical services in the National Military Establishment. Dr. Allen, president, University of Washington, Seattle, will have broad authority in the "establishment and control of general policies, standards and programs for the medical services of the three military departments." This step is regarded as significant because for the first time in recent years a civilian has been given actual administrative authority over medical departments in the three service branches. As one of the original members of the Armed Forces Medical Advisory Committee and the Hoover Commission, Dr. Allen has been very active in the reorganization field. Before becoming president of University of Washington he was medical dean at Wayne University and the University of Illinois. According to the Washington Report on Medical Sciences, Dr. Allen will serve for three months, beginning July 1, and will be succeeded by Dr. Richard L. Meiling of the Ohio State medical faculty, who will act as deputy director during the interim.

## DR. GEORGE H. HILLENBRAND, OF CHICAGO, DIES

Dr. George H. Hillenbrand, 76, veteran Chicago dentist and father of Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, secretary of the American Dental Association, died at his home, 1346 West Granville Avenue, Chicago, on Wednesday, June 8. Dr. Hillenbrand was graduated from Northwestern University Dental School in 1898 and had practiced dentistry in Chicago for 50 years. In addition to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, survivors include five sons and three daughters. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at St. Mary's Church in Evanston.

## UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE AWARDS HONORARY DEGREE TO DR. CLYDE MINGES, A.D.A. PRESIDENT

Dr. Clyde E. Minges, of Rocky Mount, N.C., A.D.A. president, was awarded the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Louisville at its annual spring commencement exercises June 13. The ceremonies marked the conclusion of the school's 151st year. The degree was conferred by Dr. John W. Taylor, president of the University, who read the following citation: "Clyde E. Minges, dentist, administrator, distinguished alumnus of the University of Louisville, officer of numerous state, national and professional organizations, lecturer, public health official, consultant to the Surgeon General of the United States Army, recipient of many honors and awards, fellow of the American College of Dentists, fellow of the International College of Dentists, now president of the American Dental Association." Dr. Minges was graduated from the dental school of the University of Louisville in 1919.

## MINNESOTA EDUCATOR JOINS A.D.A. STAFF

Dr. William H. Waite, of Moorhead, Minn., has been named assistant secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. His appointment was effective June 15. He came to the A.D.A. from the State Teachers' College at Moorhead, Minn., where he was administrative dean and later head of the Department of Education. Dr. Waite is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, and received his master's degree at the University of Manitoba. In 1940 he received his Ph. D. in educational psychology from the University of Chicago. Prior to his appointment at Moorhead, Dr. Waite was on the staff of the Milwaukee State Teachers' College. He has also served as head of the Department of Education of the University of Omaha and director of curriculum for the Omaha public schools.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Among the leaders of the dental profession who testified in Congress last week on federal aid for dental education were Dr. Russell W. Bunting, dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. J. Ben Robinson, dean of the Dental School of the University of Maryland; and Dr. Basil G. Bibby, director of the Eastman Dental Dispensary and researcher in the field of caries prevention....The new executive officer in the Army Surgeon General's office is a Dental Corps man, Col. James M. Epperly. He is the first dentist to hold such a position....The Navy Department is now offering civilian dentists one-year civil service contracts to treat natives of the islands of the United States trust territory in the Pacific area. The positions pay \$6,127.50 a year, and applicants must pass a physical examination equivalent to that for the Armed Forces....Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., a former president of the American Board of Orthodontists, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Emory University on June 3....The American Dental Hygienists' Association has arranged for a special train following a scenic route to and from the A.D.A. Annual Session....Dr. Clifton O. Dummett, dean of the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College, has been appointed chief of the dental service at the Tuskegee, Ala., Veterans Administration hospital....Rear Adm. C. V. Rault, chief of the Navy Dental Division, who is a member of the class of 1918 at Loyola (New Orleans) University College of Dentistry, delivered the commencement address at that school on May 31....By a vote of 18 to 16, members of the California Senate refused to take the compulsory health insurance bill, backed by Governor Warren, out of committee. The committee had voted to table the bill. The action has killed the measure for this session of the California legislature, according to political observers.