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The logo features the lowercase letters 'ada' in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a circle. To the right of the circle, the words 'News Letter' are written in a large, elegant, cursive script. A horizontal dotted line runs across the page, passing through the bottom of the circle and under the 'News Letter' text.

ada News Letter

Vol. 2, No. 13, July 1, 1949

**A.D.A. SPOKESMEN INFORM CONGRESS OF URGENT NEED
FOR NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR ARMY DENTAL CORPS**

The need for new federal legislation to guarantee sound administrative operation of the Army Dental Corps was stressed by a group of four A.D.A. representatives at hearings before subcommittees of both Houses of Congress in Washington on June 20. The A.D.A. witnesses testified in favor of S.1205, sponsored by Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.), and H.R. 3479, sponsored by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D., S. C.). The two bills, which are identical, propose to crystalize into law most of the present Army regulations which were placed in effect last year at the repeated demands of the A.D.A. Dr. T. J. McDermott, of Cleveland, member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, pointed out that in the past the Army Dental Corps had been forced to operate without sufficient administrative authority to protect the dental health of the men and women of the Armed Forces. He warned that "dentistry will no longer tolerate an inferior position to medicine and members of the dental profession will not voluntarily join an organization where such a situation exists." Dr. McDermott read a statement which had been prepared by Dr. Carl O. Flagstad, late chairman of the A.D.A. Council, just before he died suddenly of a heart attack at Minneapolis on June 16. Other A.D.A. witnesses included Dr. O. G. Skelton, of Dallas, Tex., a retired colonel in the Army Dental Corps; Dr. W. R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., and Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. J., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Corps. Both Dr. Alstadt and Dr. Friedrich are reserve officers in the Army Dental Corps. Opposing the recommendations of the A.D.A. witnesses were representatives of Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray. Mr. Johnson, in a letter, said he was opposed to the bills on the grounds that the proposed legislation would interfere with plans for the reorganization of the Department of the Army. Maj. Gen. Walter D. Love, second in command of the Army Dental Corps, testified that the Army was officially against the bills. Asked for his personal opinion, however, Gen. Love asserted he would prefer the proposed legislation to the present regulations established for the dental corps.

**ARMY REGULATIONS ARE
DESCRIBED AS 'UNSTABLE'**

The Flagstad statement cited the Association's past experience with Army regulations as most unsatisfactory. In repeated instances, it said, regulations have been changed or rescinded without prior notice either to the corps or the Association. "The Department of the Army has objected to these bills on the ground that they will tend to strengthen by statute a particular corps of the Army. The Association hopes that it will. Army regulations in the past have not been such as to be conducive to making the dentist feel that he has a place of authority in the Army, and when, after considerable pressure those regulations have been made more or less satisfactory, the Army has not hesitated to alter them almost overnight." The statement said that the purpose of the bills is to insure that the principle of dental responsibility for oral health be carried throughout the Army, and that dental officers be given the power to carry out an effective dental health program without interference from non-dental officers. It pointed out that the proposed legislation for the Army Dental Corps is, in a large measure, similar to that enacted for the Navy.

OTHER WITNESSES CITE WARTIME DEFICIENCIES

Dr. Friedrich, who spent five years on active duty with the Army during World War II, said that the wartime failure to correct an administrative program which was seriously impairing efficient dental service "resulted in considerable antagonism and ill-will toward seeking service or a career with the Army Dental Corps." Dr. Friedrich warned that the provision of dental service for millions of persons during a war is not a part-time task nor can "it be accomplished in the military sphere by officers without proper rank and authority....The record of administrative inadequacies during the last war speaks for itself. No progress can be made until there is a thoroughgoing revision of the administration of the Army Medical Department as it affects the Army Dental Corps." Col. Skelton, in reviewing his 33 years of experience in the dental corps, said that dental officers have a "well founded skepticism" as to whether the present regulations will be continued. He said that during his wartime inspections at 17 training camps and 10 general hospitals he has been impressed by the contempt of Army regulations held by high ranking medical officers. Legislation is needed, he said, to correct this situation. The other A.D.A. witness, Dr. Alstadt, stressed the need for giving dental officers full control of dental installations and dental corps personnel. He said that in many instances, dental assistants and technicians had been arbitrarily transferred to other corps leaving dental officers without adequate staff to carry out an effective oral health program. He said: "In my private practice as a dentist, I certainly would not want a physician, regardless of how good a friend he might be, to delegate the duties of my office assistants, to decide on their salaries, on their promotions, to evaluate their usefulness, to order my supplies, or in any manner conduct my private practice."

COUNCIL ASKS SUPPORT OF FORMER DENTAL OFFICERS

Members of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation have asked that all former dental officers write members of the two Armed Services subcommittees urging a favorable report on the pending bills. To date, neither subcommittee has taken formal action. Members of the Senate subcommittee are: Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.), chairman; Sen. Estes Kefauver (D., Tenn.); and Sen. Chan Gurney (R., S. D.). Sen. Millard Tydings (D., Md.) is chairman of the Senate Armed Services committee. Members of the House subcommittee are: Rep. Overton Brooks (D., La.), chairman, Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D., S. C.), Rep. Philip J. Philbin (D., Mass.), Rep. Arthur Winstead (D., Miss.), Rep. Porter Hardy (D., Va.), Rep. Edward de Gaffenried (D., Ala.), Rep. Paul W. Shafer (R., Mich.), Rep. W. Sterling Cole (R., N. Y.), Rep. Jack Z. Anderson (R., Calif.), Rep. Leon H. Gavin (R., Pa.) and Rep. Walter Norblad (R., Ore.). Rep. Carl Vinson (D., Ga.) is chairman of the House Armed Services committee.

RAISE IN STUDENT DUES IS RECOMMENDED

The A.D.A. Council on Membership, meeting at the Central Office on June 20, unanimously approved a recommendation that dues of A.D.A. student members be increased from \$3 to \$4 annually. The recommendation will be presented to the House of Delegates at the San Francisco meeting next October for final action. The increase was urged because postal regulations do not permit second-class mailing of the A.D.A. Journal to members whose dues are less than one-half the annual subscription price. As a result, it has been necessary to ship Journals to the various dental schools for redistribution to student members. This has posed a serious distribution problem during months in which classes are not in session. The Council also voted to recommend to the House of Delegates that all states be requested to maintain a periodic re-registration of licensed dentists. At present, five states -- Alabama, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia -- do not require an annual registration of licensed dentists.

LIBRARIANS FROM 23 DENTAL SCHOOLS ATTEND CONFERENCE

The need for a more scientific approach in the development of dental nomenclature and the establishment of a more simplified classification system for dental literature were emphasized at a conference of dental librarians held at the A.D.A. Central Office on June 27. More than 40 persons, including librarians from 23 dental schools in the United States and visitors from Canada and Venezuela, participated in the conference which was planned by Dr. John E. Gurley, of San Francisco, chairman of the A.D.A. Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, and Dr. Donald A. Washburn, director of the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service.

CONGRESS APPROPRIATES \$100,000 FOR PLANS FOR NEW DENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE BUILDING

The A.D.A.'s request for a federal appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the construction of a dental research institute at Bethesda, Md., was trimmed to \$100,000 for the preparation of plans and specifications for the structure during final action last week on the annual budget of the U. S. Public Health Service. The House of Representatives earlier had turned down the A.D.A. request while the Senate had voted to appropriate the full \$2,000,000 to begin actual construction of the building. The \$100,000 item emerged as a compromise when the health service budget bill was considered by conferees of the two branches of Congress. While the failure of Congress to provide construction funds will delay erection of the building at least another year, A.D.A. officials were hopeful that a new appropriation could be secured next year on the basis of plans and specifications which now will be prepared. President Truman put his signature on the appropriation bill on Thursday, June 29. It is expected that a contract for blueprints will be awarded shortly. The Dental Research Institute, created a year ago by the 80th Congress, is now housed in existing facilities of the Public Health Service.

CHICAGOAN INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF I.A.D.R.

Dr. J. Roy Blayney, director of the Zoller Memorial Dental Clinic at the University of Chicago, was installed as president of the International Association for Dental Research at its 27th annual meeting in Chicago June 24 to 26. Dr. Blayney succeeded Dr. Allan G. Brodie, also of Chicago. Other officers named for the next year are: Dr. Basil G. Bibby, of Rochester, N. Y., president-elect; Dr. Leonard S. Fosdick, of Chicago, vice president; and Dr. Edward H. Hatton, of Evanston, Ill., secretary-treasurer. Dr. Harold C. Hodge, of Rochester, N. Y., was elected a member of the Board of Trustees. The 1949 meeting of the Association has been tentatively set for March 29, 30 and 31 at French Lick Springs, Ind.

NATIONAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN MAKES EXTENSIVE CLAIMS FOR NEW CHLOROPHYLL DENTIFRICE REPORTED TO I.A.D.R.

Claims that the search for a caries-preventive agent may now be over were made in an extensive, commercially-sponsored publicity campaign based on reports on a chlorophyll dentifrice read at last week's annual meeting of the International Association of Dental Research in Chicago. The reports were presented by Dr. Gustav W. Rapp, and Mr. B. F. Gurney of the faculty of Loyola (Chicago) University's dental school. The publicity campaign was conducted by a Chicago public relations firm on behalf of Rystan Co., Inc., of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., manufacturers of a tooth paste called Chloresium. According to a publicity release, the tooth paste "acts to do away with all of the conditions generally thought by dental authorities to be causes of dental decay, according to Dr. Rapp and Mr. Gurney." The two researchers were also quoted as reporting that the new dentifrice lowers the acid count (sic) of the mouth better than any other known substance, retards the breakdown of the protein part of tooth enamel and inhibits pathogenic bacteria. In addition, the new paste, it was said, deodorizes the mouth and retards the return of offensive odors. The release continued: "All of these advantages may be had, according to the report, with only two brushings a day, one of them preferably after breakfast when the acid count of the mouth is at its highest." The results were obtained through laboratory tests on saliva from 100 individuals. The report was widely hailed in the press and radio. Reports on research with chlorophyll were also presented by Drs. John W. Hein and William G. Shafer of the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry. They said that sodium copper chlorophyllin has produced "very encouraging results" in controlling and preventing tooth decay. Their tests, so far, have been made only in the laboratory with human saliva and on animals. Tests on human patients are now under way. The Rochester researchers said that the evidence so far is that the chlorophyll compound "is superior to that so far submitted in support of some actively publicized and widely used caries preventives." The A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics long has been interested in the possibility of the use of chlorophyll compounds in the control and prevention of caries. The Council has recommended, however, that additional research should be carried out before the chlorophyll preparations are recommended for general use as a therapeutic measure in the prevention of caries.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL SCHOOLS APPROVES PRINCIPLE OF FEDERAL AID TO DENTAL EDUCATION

Federal aid to dental education was approved in principle by the American Association of Dental Schools here this week provided such aid is "surrounded by effective safeguards to the freedom and self-determination of the dental schools which may participate in it." The resolution adopted by the dental educators at the meeting pointed out that the general problem of dental education transcends the limits of state boundaries and is national in character. The resolution said it would appear that "federal funds might, with justification, be appropriated in support of dental and dental hygienist education provided that such support does not commit the dental schools of the country to any standard in education which might be imposed by the federal government. Such funds...should be accepted only with the understanding that the government shall not exercise any control over, or prescribe any requirements with respect to the curriculum, teaching personnel, or administration of any school or the admission of applicants thereto." The Association also asked that the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education undertake a number of studies to determine the actual costs of dental education to the schools and the students, to determine the need for expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools, and to examine the extent of reported shortages of dental teachers. Dr. Gerald D. Timmons, of Temple University, was installed as president, succeeding Dr. Roy J. Rinehart, of Kansas City University. Dr. Charles W. Freeman, of Northwestern University, was named president-elect and Dr. Ernest G. Sloman, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, was elected vice president. Dr. John E. Buhler, of Emory University, was reelected secretary-treasurer. Dr. Walter H. Wright was named to succeed Dr. Sloman as a member of the executive committee. Dr. Otto Brandhorst, of Washington University, was elected to the Council on Dental Education succeeding Dr. Bert L. Hooper. Dr. G. W. Gaver, of Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and Dr. Maynard Hine, of Indiana University, were elected members of the National Board of Dental Examiners.

SEEK LEGISLATION TO REORGANIZE V.A. DENTAL PROGRAM

The Council on Federal Government Dental Corps headed by Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. J., has recommended that A.D.A. House of Delegates seek new federal legislation to correct administrative inadequacies in the dental department of the Veterans Administration. According to a resolution approved by the Council during a meeting in Chicago on June 16 to 18, the V. A. dental department does not have adequate control of dental personnel, program operation, budget preparation or the procurement of dental supplies. The Council also requested that the A.D.A. Board of Trustees authorize a survey of federal dental service activities and that the Council's name be changed to "Council on Federal Dental Services."

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES 71,586

Total membership of the A.D.A., as of June 1, was 71,586. Because of the 109 per cent gain in student memberships, this represents a 5 per cent increase over last year's June total of 68,169. Total active membership fell off from 62,774 to 62,136, a drop of about 1 per cent. Thirty-one constituent societies recorded drops in membership of from 1 to 25 per cent. In June of last year there were 3,375 student members; this year there were 7,044.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A new bill, H.R. 5324, introduced by Rep. A. Leonard Allen (D. La.), provides for an across-the-board pay increase of about 15 per cent for all physicians, dentists and nurses in the Veterans Administration. The salary of assistant medical director for dental officers, now \$11,000, would be boosted to between \$13,000 and \$14,000. The new "chief grade" in the dental service would carry with it a salary of between \$10,000 and \$11,000....Conversion of the Federal Security Agency into a new federal Department of Welfare has been proposed by President Truman under the new reorganization act...The Federal Security Agency's appropriations bill just passed by Congress makes available \$5,000 dollars in grants for cancer research to each of 16 dental schools. Forty medical schools receive \$25,000 apiece....The new A.D.A. Appointment Book for 1950 is available today from the A.D.A. business office. The major difference between this and previous books is that the appointment breakdown is for half-hour periods instead of quarter-hour periods.