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News Letter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - January 16, 1950

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE ASKS FOR SPECIAL TAX TO INITIATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN - OMITTS REQUEST FOR RESEARCH BUILDING

In his recent budget message, President Truman asked for a one-quarter of one per cent payroll tax starting next Jan. 1 to raise \$250 million "to defray initial expenses" for compulsory health insurance and requested an increased public health service appropriation for dental health activities. He did not include, though, a request for \$2 million for the construction of a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research. In 1948 the Senate authorized the appropriation of this sum for the A.D.A.-sponsored project, but last year's appropriation of \$100,000 provided only for the preparation of blueprints and specifications. Also included in his budget requests were \$30 million for aid to medical education (S.1453), \$25 million for school health services (S. 1411) and \$5 million for aid to public health units (S.522). These three bills passed the Senate last year but have not come to a vote in the House of Representatives. The President asked that the National Institute of Dental Research be given \$250,000 for research grants and \$75,000 for fellowships, compared to \$200,000 and \$35,000 appropriated last year. In all, he asked that the Public Health Service be granted \$2,140,000 for its dental health activities, half of which is to be used for assistance to the states.

SEN. HUNT'S BILL TO BE READY SOON

Though the budget message indicated no slackening in the Administration's effort to get a comprehensive health insurance law during this session of Congress, there is a possibility that a com-

promise plan may get serious consideration. Senator Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.) has announced that he expects to introduce his new "deductible" health insurance bill within the month and has hopes of getting the plan through Congress this year. He said that the preliminary draft of the bill provides for a government supported system of medical, dental and hospital insurance to be administered by a department of health headed by a physician. Subscription would be voluntary, and benefits would not be paid unless annual health care expense exceeds a certain sum, as yet undetermined. Senator Hunt said he did not know whether the deductible item would be \$50 or \$100. At the A.D.A. annual session in San Francisco last October he asked the dental profession to support his plan. Senator Paul E. Douglas (D., Ill.) is also planning to introduce a deductible health insurance bill to cover "catastrophic illness."

ALABAMA CONTRIBUTES 136 PER CENT OF QUOTA TO LEAD NATION IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIEF FUND -- TOTAL RECEIPTS ARE \$55,000



As they have for the past several years, dentists in Alabama again lead the entire nation in percentage contributions to the American Dental Association Relief Fund. On Jan. 1, Alabama dentists had contributed 136 per cent of their 1949-50 quota compared with a national average of 55 per cent of quota. Two other constituent societies also have exceeded the 100 per cent mark this year. They are North Dakota, with contributions of 118 per cent of quota, and Panama Canal Zone, with 117 per cent of quota. Total contributions to the Fund at the first of the year were \$55,360.22, approximately \$9,000 over total contributions at the corresponding date a year ago. Approximately one-third of the total

A.D.A. membership has contributed to the Fund in the current campaign. The average contribution is approximately \$2.30. In an effort to reach the goal of \$100,000, the Council on Relief will send a letter to each A.D.A. member next week urging those who have overlooked sending in a contribution to do so as soon as possible. Those who have already contributed will be urged to make an additional contribution to the Fund if at all possible. The

second appeal was decided upon as it became apparent that current income from the Relief Fund (all of which is invested in first class securities) is inadequate to maintain the present Relief Fund grants to needy dentists and their dependents. Without an increase in the Fund's assets, the Council will eventually be forced to reduce grants made under the Fund. With the 1949-50 campaign over the half-way mark on Jan. 1, Council officials were hopeful that the second appeal would put the fund close to its \$100,000 goal. During the last accounting period -- Dec. 15 to Jan. 1 -- a total of 8,435 additional contributions were received totalling \$20,293.21. The average contribution during this period was \$2.40, about 10 cents higher than the average of contributions received earlier in the current campaign. A breakdown of contributions by constituent societies up to Jan. 1 and the percentage of quota for each are shown in the following table:

To Jan. 1				To Jan. 1			
	1949-50	CONTRI-	PCT		1949-50	CONTRI-	PCT
	QUOTAS	BUTIONS			QUOTAS	BUTIONS	
Alabama	\$ 810.00	\$ 1104.50	136	Nebraska	\$ 1160.00	\$ -860.50	74
Arizona	260.00	125.00	48	Nevada	100.00	53.50	53
Arkansas	490.00	259.00	53	New Hampshire	410.00	129.00	31
Army & Air Force	510.00	198.00	39	New Jersey	4290.00	2480.00	58
California	3640.00	2058.50	57	New Mexico	190.00	125.00	66
S. California	4340.00	3411.00	79	New York	15560.00	7288.00	47
Colorado	880.00	224.00	25	North Carolina	1190.00	827.00	69
Connecticut	1940.00	1251.50	65	North Dakota	340.00	402.05	118
Delaware	150.00	65.00	43	Ohio	4910.00	2399.30	49
Dist. of Col.	810.00	543.00	67	Oklahoma	920.00	521.00	57
Florida	1180.00	762.00	65	Oregon	1150.00	758.50	66
Georgia	1020.00	842.50	83	Panama C.Z.	30.00	35.00	117
Hawaii	360.00	265.00	74	Pennsylvania	7260.00	4016.80	55
Idaho	270.00	177.50	66	P.H. Service	300.00	77.50	26
Illinois	7640.00	4642.75	61	Puerto Rico	290.00	84.00	29
Indiana	2340.00	1565.96	66	Rhode Island	530.00	191.50	36
Iowa	1910.00	1280.00	67	South Carolina	380.00	142.00	37
Kansas	1130.00	713.16	63	South Dakota	350.00	141.50	40
Kentucky	1100.00	263.00	24	Tennessee	1100.00	665.50	60
Louisiana	1040.00	450.00	43	Texas	3040.00	1386.00	46
Maine	420.00	239.00	57	Utah	470.00	38.50	08
Maryland	1040.00	625.00	60	Vermont	210.00	55.00	26
Massachusetts	3780.00	1269.00	34	Vet. Admin.	980.00	242.00	25
Michigan	3900.00	2158.65	55	Virginia	1120.00	602.00	54
Minnesota	3060.00	1756.10	57	Washington	1680.00	1222.75	73
Mississippi	500.00	367.20	73	West Virginia	730.00	515.50	71
Missouri	2670.00	1657.00	62	Wisconsin	2990.00	1241.00	42
Montana	340.00	263.00	77	Wyoming	170.00	98.00	58
Navy	710.00	225.50	32				
TOTALS					\$100,000.00	\$55,360.22	55

EXPECT RECORD OBSERVANCE OF CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY

BULLETIN

The Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate this morning (Jan. 16) unanimously approved a joint congressional resolution (H. J. 184) which would authorize President Truman to proclaim National Children's Dental Health Day. The resolution has been approved by the House and is now on the Senate calendar. It is expected that the Senate will approve the resolution within the next few days, thus clearing the way for a Presidential proclamation for the nation-wide observance planned for Monday, Feb. 6.

Extensive state and local observance of the second annual National Children's Dental Health Day on Monday, Feb. 6, is being planned in virtually all parts of the nation. A spot check of various states reveals that a large number of governors have agreed to issue procla-

mations urging public support of the objective to make dental health education and care available to greater numbers of children. In New York, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has proclaimed the week beginning Feb. 6 as Children's Dental Health Week. In Kansas, Gov. Frank Carlson has asked all public schools to conduct special dental health programs on Feb. 6. In Cleveland, where Children's Dental Health Day was inaugurated 10 years ago, an elaborate program will be staged. In numerous other states and cities, poster contests, special community and school programs and other events have been planned. Directors of a number of national radio and television shows have agreed to support the observance with spot announcements urging public support. Demand for posters, pamphlets and other material furnished by the Association indicate that the 1950 observance will set a new record.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP TOTALLED 75,609 -- A NEW RECORD -- IN 1949

Total membership in the American Dental Association reached 75,609 at the end of 1949, the highest in Association history, it is announced by Dr. Holly Jarvis, of Cincinnati, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Membership. The 1949 total was 3,561 higher than that of 1948 and included 65,584 active members (a decrease of 681), 2,511 life members (an increase of 361), 7,205 student members (an increase of 3,826), 300 affiliate members (a decline of 17), and 9 associate and honorary members (an increase of 4). Though the number of active members declined approximately one per cent, the increase in the number of life members reduced the net loss in the number of dentists holding membership in the A.D.A. to approximately one-half of one per cent for the year. An analysis of changes in constituent society memberships during 1949 reveals that in general small declines were reported for societies in the eastern and southern states while small gains were recorded in the western and southwestern states. The largest increase was in Idaho, where membership increased 9.4 per cent during the year. Other percentage increases included: Delaware, 8; Hawaii, 5.9; Florida, 4.6; Texas, 4.2. The largest percentage decline was reported for South Carolina where dental society membership dropped 13.1 per cent. Other percentage drops in membership during 1949 included: West Virginia, 10.7; Maine, 6.8; New Hampshire, 6.4; District of Columbia, 5.8; and Pennsylvania, 5.5. Dr. Jarvis asks that all constituent society secretaries remit 1950 dues as soon as possible so that subscriptions to The Journal of the American Dental Association and other services to individual members will not be interrupted. Dues for the new year were due and payable on January 1.

DR. RUSSELL BUNTING TO RETIRE AS MICHIGAN DEAN JULY 1

Dr. Russell W. Bunting will resign as dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry effective July 1, and will be succeeded by Dr. Paul H. Jeserich, professor of operative dentistry at the same school and the director of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Institute, according to a university announcement. Dr. Bunting has been the dental dean at Michigan since 1937 and a faculty member there since 1904. Dr. Jeserich joined the Michigan faculty in 1933 and has been director of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Institute since 1936. He is a past president of the Michigan State Dental Society, chairman of the National Dental Advisory Committee of the Veterans Administration and a member of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations.

DR. MOEN IS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL RESEARCH SURVEY GROUP

Dr. Obed H. Moen, of Watertown, Wisc., A.D.A. trustee for the 9th district (Wisconsin and Michigan) has been appointed by Dr. Philip E. Adams, A.D.A. president, as chairman of a special committee of the Board of Trustees to study research activities of the Association. Dr. Moen was named to the chairmanship following the resignation of Dr. Daniel Lynch, of Washington, 4th district trustee, who asked to be relieved of this assignment so he could devote more time as chairman of another special committee of the Board to consider a general survey of dentistry.

NEW NATIONAL DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM PAMPHLET NOW AVAILABLE

The statement, "A Dental Health Program for the Community, State and Nation," which was adopted unanimously by the House of Delegates at San Francisco last October, is now available in pamphlet form. Setting forth broad principles for the development of community, state and national dental health programs, this pamphlet is particularly suitable for distribution to schools, libraries, and officials of community groups and civic leaders. Copies may be obtained without charge upon request to the A.D.A.

PHILADELPHIA AND CHICAGO MEETING SET FOR EARLY FEBRUARY

The Greater Philadelphia 1950 Annual Meeting, sponsored by the Philadelphia County Dental Society, will be held Feb. 1, 2 and 3 at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. An attendance of several thousand dentists is expected, according to Dr. Harry A. Mesjian, president of the Philadelphia Society. Speakers will include Dr. Philip E. Adams, A.D.A. president, U. S. Sen. Lester C. Hunt, Gov. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania and others. A special feature of the meeting will be public health forum on Friday morning, Feb. 3, stressing children's dentistry. Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. trustee for Pennsylvania, will be the moderator. Also scheduled for early February is the annual Midwinter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society which will be held at the Stevens Hotel, Feb. 6 to 9. Attendance is expected to exceed 12,000.

APPOINT NEW EDITORIAL, BUSINESS OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Mr. David J. Atchison, of Elgin, Ill., has been appointed assistant editor, and Mr. Walter A. Suberg, of Chicago, has been named assistant business manager on the A.D.A. Central Office staff. Mr. Atchison, who succeeds Mr. John L. Murphy, formerly was magazine relations director of the American Medical Association and was an associate editor of Nowadays magazine. Mr. Suberg, who replaces Mr. Joseph J. Richards, formerly was purchasing agent for the U. S. Sanitary Specialties Corporation in Chicago.

BILL INTRODUCED TO REPEAL MASSACHUSETTS RESEARCH PROJECT

Repeal of a law providing for the experimental training of feminine personnel was proposed in a bill introduced Jan. 4 in the Massachusetts legislature. If passed, it would terminate a five-year project now underway at the Forsythe Dental Infirmary for Children in Boston. The project is under the direction of Dr. Howard M. Marjerison, a member of the infirmary staff, and is under the supervision of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. According to that department, the purpose of the project is to determine the desirability of training dental auxiliary aids to provide limited dental services such as fillings for children (see A.D.A. News Letter, Dec. 1, 1949). Hearings on this bill have been scheduled for Jan. 24.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A recent address on modern dentistry in the United States by Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York City, speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, has been recorded and broadcast on the "Voice of America" to many foreign countries....Shortly after Congress reconvened, it received petitions from the Ninth District Dental Society of New York, the Maryland State Dental Association, the Baltimore Dental Society, the Tennessee State Dental Association and the Corydon-Palmer Dental Society of Youngstown, Ohio, protesting against the enactment of compulsory health insurance legislation....The new chairman of the Dental Information Bureau, New York City, is Dr. T. E. J. Shanahan, of Brooklyn. He succeeded Dr. Roland E. Morse, of New York, N.Y., last month....The chairman of arrangements for the American Association of Dental Examiners Workshop on Testing Techniques in Chicago Feb. 5 is Dr. Philip L. Schwartz of New Brunswick, N.J., and not Dr. Philip Schwartz of East Orange, N.J., as reported earlier in the A.D.A. News Letter....Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, A.D.A. president, will be one of the principal speakers at the annual meeting of the Minnesota State Dental Association in St. Paul on Feb. 20. Dr. Adams also is scheduled to speak on Feb. 23 at a special meeting in Washington, D. C., sponsored by the District of Columbia Dental Society....President Truman has asked for legislation which would supplement the present bill for federal aid to professional education. The new bill, already in the drafting stage, would set up a system of federal scholarships which would cover a student's educational costs prior to entering professional schools as well as the costs of a wide variety of other courses....Dr. John C. Brauer has resigned as dean of the school of dentistry, University of Southern California, effective Feb. 1, according to reports from Los Angeles.