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## ADA News Letter - 02/01/1950

American Dental Association

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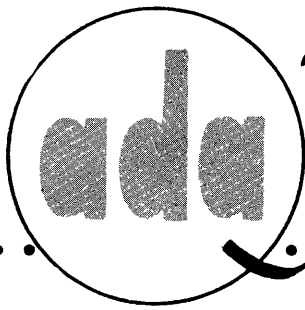
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# News Letter

Vol. 3, No. 3 - February 1, 1950

## U. S. DENTISTS HAD AN AVERAGE NET INCOME OF \$6,912 IN 1948 -- A GAIN OF 137 PER CENT OVER 1937, GOVERNMENT SURVEY SHOWS

The average U. S. dentist had a net income of \$6,912 in 1948, about 60 per cent higher than the average for 1929 and 137 per cent higher than that for 1937, according to a recent survey by the U. S. Department of Commerce. Substantial differences in earnings were noted in the various types of practice, and by age groups, geographic location and the size of the community. Specialists were reported to have an average annual net income of \$11,784 during the year, approximately 75 per cent higher than the average of \$6,735 reported for the general practitioner. The average for salaried dentists was \$5,358. A.D.A. members averaged a net of \$7,503 while non-members averaged \$4,183. Of the estimated 78,000 practicing dentists in the U. S., approximately 20 per cent were reported to have earned less than \$3,000 in 1948 while about seven per cent were reported to have earned \$15,000 or more. About half, 48.7 per cent, earned between \$4,000 and \$10,000 in 1948. By age groups, those between 40 and 44 years old had the highest annual average of \$9,117, more than two and one-half times the corresponding average for 1937. Those under 25 years of age, representing only 1.8 per cent of the total number of dentists, had an average income of \$2,823, while dentists over 65 years of age, about 10 per cent of all dentists, averaged \$3,227. About one per cent reported net losses for the year.

**FAR WEST LEADS REST OF NATION** Geographically speaking, dentists in the Far West lead the rest of the nation with an average of \$9,751. New England and New York dropped to bottom places from number two and three positions, respectively, of a decade ago. Favorable areas next to the Far West were listed, in order, as the Southwest, the Southeast, Northwest and Central States. On the basis of the size of the community, dentists in middle-size cities (from 50,000 to 99,999 population) lead the rest of the nation with an average annual net earning of \$8,125. Dentists in the small towns generally earned slightly more than did those in cities of 1,000,000 or more population. For example, dentists in communities between 2,500 and 4,999 population reported an average earning of \$6,870 compared with the average of \$5,609 reported for New York City where one-tenth of the nation's dentists are located. Averages for other major cities were listed as: San Francisco, \$9,577; Los Angeles, \$8,562; Cleveland, \$7,341; Detroit, \$6,919; Chicago, \$5,294; and Philadelphia, \$5,216. About 37 per cent of the non-salaried dentists had no employees in 1949 and about 42 per cent had only one employee. The average net earning for the dentist working alone was \$3,819, for dentists with one employee it was \$8,134, and for dentists with five or more employees it was \$18,955. The figures in the survey were compiled from questionnaires returned by about 11 per cent of the one-third of practicing dentists requested by the Commerce Department to submit income figures. Reprints of the survey report may be obtained without cost on request to the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics.

## DR. ALLEN O. GRUEBBEL IS NAMED TO MAKE SPECIAL SURVEY OF THE DENTAL NURSES PLAN IN OPERATION IN NEW ZEALAND

Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the Council on Dental Health, has been appointed by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees to conduct a special survey of the New Zealand public health program under which dental nurses are permitted to fill teeth and perform other dental services for

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children. Dr. Gruebbel will leave for New Zealand in mid-February and will spend about two months in that country. The New Zealand program has attracted world-wide attention. Similar surveys to that planned by Dr. Gruebbel have been authorized by the British Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. The latter will be made by Dr. John T. Fulton, dental services advisor of the U. S. Children's Bureau. Dentists are particularly concerned about the comparatively short period of training required for dental nurses under New Zealand law and the type of health services being provided for children by dental nurses. There, dental nurses receive only two years of training beyond high school compared with the six years of college and professional training required for dentists in the United States. In his study, Dr. Gruebbel plans to check both the training provided for dental nurses in New Zealand and the effectiveness of the treatment program for New Zealand children.

## SENATOR LESTER C. HUNT INTRODUCES NEW BILL IN CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH NATION-WIDE "VOLUNTARY" HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Establishment of a government-administered voluntary health insurance system which would provide health benefits for families with less than \$5,000 annual income was proposed in a bill (S. 2490) introduced in Congress on Monday (Jan. 30) by Senator Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.) The bill calls for the creation of a federal department of health, headed by either a physician or a dentist, and would establish a National Health Insurance Board to administer the program. All individuals earning less than \$5,000 would be eligible for reimbursement of all dental, medical and hospital expenses in excess of the first \$5. In introducing his bill, Sen. Hunt said that his bill was designed primarily "to provide maximum health coverage to the lower income groups at a minimum premium," adding: "This bill carries no compulsory feature and thus does not, in any sense of the word, socialize the health professions." In addition to establishing a national insurance board to "sell" health insurance policies on a voluntary basis, the Hunt bill would also provide for federal grants and loans to set up farmers' experimental health co-operatives and health facilities in rural and other shortage areas. The \$5 deductible provision, Sen. Hunt said, was included to discourage unnecessary visits to physicians and dentists. Sen. Hunt, who is a member of the A.D.A., said that he had submitted drafts to both the A.M.A. and the A.D.A. for consideration. The Hunt bill was the third new health bill put in Congressional hopppers in the past month. The others are: the Keating bill (H.R. 6819) which would permit the deduction of 60 to 90 per cent of the premium paid for voluntary health insurance or prepaid medical care from Federal income tax payments; and the Bosone bill (H.R. 6766) which would establish a compulsory health insurance system to provide medical, dental, hospital and nursing care to eligible participants after they had expended in any benefit year a total of \$50 of their own funds for medical care or \$25 for dental care. All three bills have been referred to committees and no date has been set for hearings. The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has a large backlog of health bills pending on its agenda. According to reports, this committee is planning to take action on the public health assistance bill (S. 522), the school health services bill (S. 1411) and the aid-to-education bill (S. 1453) in that order, during February. The National Science Foundation bill (S. 247) may be considered in the House on Feb. 27.

## EDITORS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL MID-CENTURY ISSUE OF JOURNAL

Four men have been selected as section editors of the special mid-century issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association to be published next June or July, it has been announced by Dr. Lon W. Morrey, A.D.A. editor. Dr. Harlan H. Horner, of Albany, N. Y., former secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, will edit the education and licensure section. Dr. H. B. G. Robinson, editor of the Journal of Dental Research and professor at Ohio State University College of Dentistry, will have charge of the section on dental science; Dr. Harold J. Noyes, dean of the University of Oregon Dental school, the section on social responsibility, and Mr. Gardner P. H. Foley, associate professor of dental literature at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, the dental literature section. The issue will also contain a listing of "men of the half century" --- individuals selected for dentistry achievement in each state -- and pictures of dental events of the last 50 years.

# RELIEF FUND CAMPAIGN REACHES 60 PER CENT OF QUOTA -- NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTIONS SPURTS AS RESULT OF SECOND APPEAL



A marked increase in the number of contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund was recorded during the past few days as the result of a second appeal made by letter to the general membership last week. While it will be several days before clerks can tabulate the new returns, officials of the Council on Relief were highly gratified at the initial response to their recent letter. The letter contained a reminder to those who had not contributed and a "thank you" to those who had already sent in a contribution to the fund. Included with the new contributions were a number of inquiries from dentists in this latter group. Many assumed that the letter meant that their contribution had not been received because they may have overlooked that portion of the letter reading: "If your contribution has already been mailed, our thanks and appreciation for your help and support..." Since the letter was intended to serve the dual purpose of reminding those who had not contributed that receipts were running considerably below the quota and of thanking those who had already supported the fund, it was sent to the entire A.D.A. membership. Up to Jan. 24 contributions in the current campaign totaled \$59,817.27, or approximately 60 per cent of the 1949-50 quota of \$100,000. During the first three weeks of January, an additional \$4,440.55 was received from 1,501 contributors, bringing the number of individual contributors to a total of 25,281, or approximately 36 per cent of the A.D.A. membership. Three constituent societies which had passed their quotas Jan. 1 -- Alabama, North Dakota and Panama Canal Zone -- continued to lead the nation. Southern California dentists boosted their contributions to a total of \$4,070, or 94 per cent of their quota. Three other societies passed the 80 per cent mark: Georgia (86 per cent), Montana (83 per cent) and West Virginia (81 per cent). Total contributions by constituent societies to Jan. 24 are shown in the following table:

To Jan. 24				To Jan. 24			
	1949-50	CONTRI-			1949-50	CONTRI-	
	QUOTAS	BUTIONS	PCT		QUOTAS	BUTIONS	PCT
Alabama	\$ 810.00	\$ 1342.50	166	Nebraska	\$ 1160.00	\$ 866.50	75
Arizona	260.00	137.00	53	Nevada	100.00	53.50	53
Arkansas	490.00	261.00	53	New Hampshire	410.00	147.00	36
Army & Air Force	510.00	233.00	46	New Jersey	4290.00	2692.00	63
California	3640.00	2183.50	60	New Mexico	190.00	131.00	69
S. California	4340.00	4070.00	94	New York	15560.00	7604.00	49
Colorado	880.00	225.00	26	North Carolina	1190.00	879.00	74
Connecticut	1940.00	1355.50	70	North Dakota	340.00	410.05	121
Delaware	150.00	71.00	47	Ohio	4910.00	2654.30	54
Dist. of Col.	810.00	575.00	71	Oklahoma	920.00	554.00	60
Florida	1180.00	854.00	72	Oregon	1150.00	856.50	74
Georgia	1020.00	875.50	86	Panama C. Z.	30.00	35.00	117
Hawaii	360.00	275.00	76	Pennsylvania	7260.00	4239.30	58
Idaho	270.00	182.50	68	P. H. Service	300.00	88.50	29
Illinois	7640.00	4914.75	64	Puerto Rico	290.00	88.00	30
Indiana	2340.00	1614.96	69	Rhode Island	530.00	200.50	38
Iowa	1910.00	1315.00	69	South Carolina	380.00	144.00	38
Kansas	1130.00	731.16	65	South Dakota	350.00	147.50	42
Kentucky	1100.00	468.00	43	Tennessee	1100.00	699.50	64
Louisiana	1040.00	486.00	47	Texas	3040.00	1447.00	48
Maine	420.00	266.00	63	Utah	470.00	40.50	9
Maryland	1040.00	680.00	65	Vermont	210.00	68.00	32
Massachusetts	3780.00	1590.75	42	Vet. Admin.	980.00	281.00	29
Michigan	3900.00	2280.15	58	Virginia	1120.00	660.00	59
Minnesota	3060.00	1868.75	61	Washington	1680.00	1283.75	76
Mississippi	500.00	377.20	75	West Virginia	730.00	589.50	81
Missouri	2670.00	1751.00	66	Wisconsin	2990.00	1307.65	44
Montana	340.00	283.00	83	Wyoming	170.00	105.00	62
Navy	710.00	254.50	36	Unorganized		23.00	
TOTALS				\$100,000.00 \$59,817.27 60			

## TRUMAN PROCLAIMS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY

President Truman today proclaimed Feb. 6 as National Children's Dental Health Day. In special ceremonies at the White House this morning, the President signed an A.D.A. sponsored congressional resolution authorizing a presidential proclamation urging "the fundamental necessity of a continuous program for the protection and development of the dental health of the nation's children." Among those at the signing were Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, A.D.A. president; Dr. Thomas McDermott, of Cleveland, member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation; Dr. Willard Camalier, A.D.A. assistant secretary; Dr. Bruce D. Forsyth, chief dental officer, U. S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Norman H. Denner, of Cleveland. The resolution came as the climax to House action last Friday spearheaded by Rep. Michael A. Feighan (D., Ohio) and Joseph R. Bryson (D., S.C.). Earlier in the Senate, the resolution was called up for passage by Majority Leader Scott Lucas (Ill.), supported by Senators Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland, James E. Murray of Montana, Pat McCarran of Nevada and Lester C. Hunt of Wyoming. In addition to extensive state and community programs sponsored by dental societies, there will be a number of national radio and television programs. The Kukla, Fran and Ollie television program for Feb. 6 will stress the observance. Among network programs that will feature dental health messages are the Burns and Allen show tonight; "My Friend Irma" on Feb. 6; the Dennis Day show, Feb. 4; and "Our Miss Brooks" on Feb. 5. CBS will carry spot announcements and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has scheduled special dental health messages on its network of programs in 41 cities over 50 radio stations through the week beginning Feb. 6. In New York, a number of other television and radio announcements has been arranged by the Dental Information Bureau in cooperation with local dental societies and the Oral Hygiene Committee. Similar radio and television programs are planned in a number of other cities.

## ASSOCIATION JOINS THE NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

The A.D.A. has become a member of the National Health Council, an agency of voluntary groups set up to coordinate public health activities on a national, state and local basis. Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, has been appointed as the Association's official delegate to the Council. The A.D.A. is the twenty-second association to become an active member of the Council.

## APPOINT DR. BRAUER DEAN OF NEW CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL

Dr. John C. Brauer has been appointed dean of the new school of dentistry, University of North Carolina. Dr. Brauer, who formerly headed the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, will oversee construction plans for the new school. A first class of 40 students is planned for September, 1950.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., treasurer of the Federation Dentaire Internationale enrollment in this country, announced that 700 American dentists had joined the F.D.I. Included were 525 renewals and 175 new memberships. F.D.I. memberships can still be obtained by sending a check for \$5 to Dr. Oliver at 1915 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn....The complete report of lobbying expenditures for 1949, as announced by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, showed the American Dental Association had spent \$15,407, compared to \$1,522,683 for the American Medical Association and \$53,726 for the American Hospital Association....A brochure explaining the career opportunities for dentists in the Public Health Service can be obtained by writing to the chief dental officer of that service, Washington 25, D.C....Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, A.D.A. president, will be the opening speaker at the 23rd annual meeting of the National Conference on Medical Service at the Palmer House, Chicago, on Sunday, Feb. 5. Dr. Adams will speak at 9:50 a.m. on "A Positive Program to Improve Dental Health"....Orders are now being filled for the 1950 edition of "Accepted Dental Remedies," prepared by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics. A copy may be obtained by sending \$1.50 to the A.D.A. Order Department....A bill has been introduced in the New York legislature which proposes that a new dental school be established in Bronx County.