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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 07/15/1950" (1950). *ADA News Letter*. 59.
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/59>

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News Letter

Vol. 3, No. 14 - July 15, 1950

NAVY DENTAL CORPS MAKES URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS - A.D.A. CONFERS WITH MILITARY, CIVILIAN DEFENSE CHIEFS

An urgent appeal for naval dental reservists with the rank of commander or less to volunteer immediately for active duty was made this week as defense chiefs rushed plans for the expansion of all branches of the military services as a result of the Korean campaign. Similar requests from the Army and the Air Force were reported to be under consideration. Defense Secretary Johnson announced that there were no immediate plans for calling reservists other than on a voluntary basis. Washington observers reported, however, that the situation could change overnight. Under the new draft law, which was effective June 30, reservists may be called "with or without their consent." Keeping in close touch with developments in the nation's capital, A.D.A. representatives last week conferred with military and civilian defense chiefs regarding the need for dental personnel in the present emergency. A meeting of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Services, headed by Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N. J., has been called for July 26 and 27 in Washington to conduct a full scale review of the situation. Meeting with the Council will be Dr. Philip E. Adams, A.D.A. president; Dr. L. M. Cruttenden, assistant A.D.A. secretary, and Mr. Francis J. Garvey, secretary, Council on Legislation. The appeal for naval reserve officers to volunteer for active duty was made by Rear Adm. Spry O. Claytor, new chief of the Navy Dental Corps, in a letter to Dr. Adams. He said: "Due to the present world situation which has changed this past week...the Navy is now in urgent need of the services of reserve dental officers presently in an inactive duty status." Service would be for at least 12 months.

MILITARY SERVICES MAY CALL 1,200 MORE DENTAL OFFICERS

for 630,000 additional men to bring the armed forces up to authorized strength. The figure of 1,200 is based on the working ratio of the armed services of two dental officers for each 1,000 military personnel on active duty. All three dental corps chiefs, Adm. Claytor, Maj. Gen. Walter Love of the Army, and Maj. Gen. George Kennebeck of the Air Force, and Dr. Richard Meiling, director of medical services in the Defense Department, conferred last week with Dr. Friedrich and Mr. Garvey. In all three corps, it was reported, dental strength was not quite at par. The situation in the Army and the Air Force corps, however, was reported as not yet sufficiently clarified to permit an accurate estimate of immediate needs for additional dental manpower.

The three military branches may soon require an additional 1,200 dental officers, it was estimated on the basis of President Truman's call

OVER-ALL DEFENSE PLANNING IS STEPPED UP BY N.S.R.B.

representatives were informed at a later conference with Dr. Norvin Kiefer, chief, health service division, N.S.R.B. Meeting with Dr. Kiefer were Dr. E. Harold Gale, of Albany, N. Y., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, Dr. Friedrich and Mr. Garvey. Agreeing that dental needs of civilians had been largely ignored during World War II, Dr. Kiefer suggested that the A.D.A. be prepared to cooperate in the formation of plans regarding a procurement and assignment service for dentists in the event of a full scale emergency. Plans are also being con-

Planning for civilian defense in relation to the health services is also being stepped up by the National Security Resources Board, A.D.A. rep-

sidered for the preparation of a master list of all dental personnel in the nation and for the establishment of basic ratios between dental needs of the military and the civilian populations. Present plans, it was reported, call for dentists to assume a major role in civilian defense. In the event of attack, dentists would be placed in charge of first aid centers where emergency treatment would be provided casualties before being transferred to general hospitals.

TRUMAN PLAN TO SET UP NEW FEDERAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT REJECTED OVERWHELMINGLY; HOUSE VOTES 249 TO 71

Reorganization Plan No. 27 to establish a new cabinet department of health, education and security was rejected overwhelmingly this week by the House of Representatives. The House voted 249 to 71 in favor of a resolution disapproving the proposal, 31 more votes than the majority of 218 required to kill the plan. It was a victory for the A.D.A. and other organizations that had actively opposed the proposal as leading to government health insurance. And it was the second attempt by the administration to transfer the Federal Security Agency into a cabinet-rank department with Oscar Ewing as the probable secretary. Last year the Senate rejected a similar plan. "This is not even a reorganization plan," Rep. Leslie C. Arends (R., Ill.) told the House before the voting. "It reorganizes nothing. It would be much more accurate to call it a political promotion plan for the advancement of socialized medicine. Instead of reducing expenditures, this plan will lead to increased spending and political control...." Although Senate action was not required because either chamber could kill the plan by majority vote, the Senate Expenditures Committee earlier in the day voted six to three to reject it.

DENTAL TRADES VOTE OPPOSITION TO COMPULSORY HEALTH SCHEME

Disapproval of the administration's proposed compulsory health insurance program was voted unanimously at the 69th annual meeting of the American Dental Trade Association held recently in Dixville Notch, N. H. The action followed an address by Dr. Philip E. Adams, A.D.A. president, who said, "I can think of no area where the American Dental Trade Association could cooperate with the American Dental Association to better advantage than in this matter of preserving the traditional methods of practice which have contributed so much to the high standards of American dentistry." The resolution opposing the health scheme stated in part: "We are convinced that a national program of compulsory health insurance would not contribute effectively to the improvement of the health of the public, but that, in fact it would tend to imperil the further development of medical and dental research, technic and practice, and....would ultimately imperil the basis of our competitive enterprise system."

"AREAS OF MISUNDERSTANDING" ARE DESCRIBED BY DR. ADAMS

In his talk, Dr. Adams described some of the "areas of misunderstanding" between the dental profession and the dental trades. He cited equipment, materials and technics which have failed to live up to promotional claims. "Whether these failures were due to lack of sufficient research or clinical trial before release, whether the early release was prompted by purely business reasons or a desire to place what was considered an improved tool in the hands of the profession makes little difference," he said. "The result was, at least temporarily, shaken confidence on the part of the profession in a group who should always command and deserve the confidence and respect of the profession." Dr. Adams suggested that a cooperative effort between the Trade Association and the A.D.A.'s Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations and its Council on Dental Research could do much to avoid similar occurrences in the future. Dr. Adams listed as another point of friction the matter of exhibits at dental society meetings. Exhibitors who contend that revenue they provide "supports" the dental societies are resented on two counts, Dr. Adams said. First, it is rare that this revenue does more than implement other revenues and second, there is a recognition by dentistry that exhibit expense is a legitimate charge against business expense in general and becomes a factor determining the ultimate price of dental goods. Pointing out, however, that the exhibitor "has a perfect right to expect and demand value received for the money he spends for space," Dr. Adams added that "there are no insurmountable barriers to complete understanding through negotiation and education." Dr. Adams' frank discussion of these points of friction was warmly welcomed by A.D.T.A. officers and members at the meeting.

FIRST DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY IN NEW YORK CITY ANNOUNCES VOLUNTARY DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

The first voluntary pre-payment dental insurance plan in the United States to be sponsored by a dental society was launched this week in New York City. The plan, called Group Health Dental Insurance, Inc., was approved by members of the First District Dental Society of the State of New York, following its endorsement by the board of directors after a two-year study. Announcement of the society's approval was made by Dr. Oscar Jacobson, society president, and Dr. Bissell B. Palmer, secretary and administrative officer of the insurance plan. They said the program was designed primarily to meet the cost of adequate dental care for families with incomes of less than \$5,000. Initially the program in its present form will be limited to 25,000 subscribers for a two-year period. Membership will be based on group enrollments with subscribers required to be members of an employed group of at least 60 persons of whom at least 75 per cent enroll. Dependents -- wives or husbands and children from two to 18 -- are also included. Premiums are expected to be \$19.80 a year for a single person; \$39.60 for a family of two, and \$72 for a family of three or more. The benefits will cover all treatment for families with incomes of less than \$5,000. If the income exceeds that amount, Group Health Dental Insurance will pay an indemnity toward the cost of the services. The plan will operate in two stages. The first calls for the correction of existing dental defects to be paid for by the subscriber up to \$150 at a moderate scale of fees. The plan will pay for costs in excess of \$150. With accumulated defects of the past corrected, the second stage, that of maintenance, will go into operation and Group Health Dental Insurance will meet the costs of all the dental services for those in the \$5,000-or-less income bracket. The patients will have a free choice of any participating dentist and treatment will be given in the offices of the dentists.

45 MILLION OF 96 MILLION U. S. ADULTS HAVE NOT RECEIVED DENTAL CARE IN TWO YEARS, NATION-WIDE SURVEY REVEALS

Nearly half the adult population of the United States has not been to a dentist within the last two years, according to a recent dental and medical survey. The poll, conducted by Dr. George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, revealed that of the 96,000,000 men and women over 21 in the United States, more than 45,000,000 have not received dental treatment for two years, some 30,000,000 have not seen a dentist in more than four years and approximately 4,000,000 men and women have never received dental care. Lesser numbers of people have not had medical care. The figures showed that 28,000,000 adults, or 29 per cent of the adult population, have not visited a physician in two years; 13,000,000 have not seen one in four years, and about 1,000,000 persons have never consulted a physician. The figures for dental treatment bore out the findings of smaller scale studies conducted by the A.D.A. which has long advocated that dental health can best be maintained by examinations every six months and not less than once a year. The Association has contended that about 92 per cent of children and adults are in need of dental care. The poll also indicated that a slightly higher proportion of women than of men have visited a dentist within recent months. Eleven per cent of the women have received dental treatment within the past five months as compared with nine per cent of the men. The survey was carried out from coast to coast.

FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE MEETS IN PARIS

Several United States dentists, including an official delegation from the A.D.A., will be in Paris next Sunday (July 23) to attend the 38th annual session of the Federation Dentaire Internationale. The meeting, which is to be held in conjunction with the scientific sessions of the Journees Dentaires de Paris, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the F.D.I. Scientific, social and business sessions will continue through July 30. Presiding at the sessions will be Mr. Charles L. Nord, of Amsterdam, F.D.I. president. Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, heads the American delegation which also includes Dr. Bruce D. Forsyth, chief of the dental division of the U.S. Public Health Service; Dr. L. R. Main, dean of the St. Louis University School of Dentistry, and Dr. Kenneth A. Bignell, of Chicago, secretary of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry.

DENTISTS, PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS UNITE AT ILLINOIS STATE RALLY TO COMBAT COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE

"The professional man should apply the same zeal to political activity as he does to treating his patients," dentists, physicians and pharmacists were told last Sunday at Springfield, Ill., at the first inter-professional rally on a state level to combat compulsory health insurance. Nearly 400 members of the Illinois State Dental Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association heard Dr. R. B. Robins, physician, Democratic national committeeman from Arkansas and outspoken opponent of the administration's compulsory health insurance scheme, who asserted that it was the duty of members of the professions individually to stimulate political activity among their colleagues and patients. The meeting, opened by Dr. William E. Mayer, of Evanston, Ill., chairman of the state dental society's committee on federal health legislation, also heard a British surgeon, Dr. Ralph J. Gampell, of San Francisco, who said he left England because practicing medicine there was "like working in a sausage factory." Dr. Gampell said the position of dentists had progressively deteriorated under the British health plan. A third speaker, Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R., S. D.) called upon the practitioners to fight "the spread of creeping socialism."

ALL DENTISTS URGED TO SUPPORT A.D.A.-CARE BOOK FUND DRIVE

A new appeal for contributions to the A.D.A.-CARE Book Fund was issued today by Dr. Stanley D. Tylman, of Chicago, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations. Donations are being asked of all dentists for the purchase of dental books for war-depleted libraries of Europe and Asia. Contributions to date are far below the \$250,000 goal established for the drive. Recently the Massachusetts Dental Society voted its full support of the campaign and Dr. Tylman has asked all other dental societies to take similar action. Contributions should be mailed to: A.D.A.-CARE Book Fund, 222 E. Superior Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

DR. JAMES H. PENCE IS NEW DENTAL DEAN AT CREIGHTON

Dr. James H. Pence, of Bismarck, N. D., has been appointed dean of the Creighton University School of Dentistry, succeeding the late Dr. Herbert E. King, who died May 11. He assumes his duties July 17. Dr. Pence, who is now director of the oral hygiene division of the North Dakota public health department, joined the Army Dental Corps in 1923, two years after his graduation from Kansas City-Western Dental College. He retired from army service in 1948. During the war he organized the dental clinic at Camp Ellis, Ill., and served as chief of dental service at Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

The first hospital of the armed forces to receive A.D.A. approval as a training center for dental residents was announced last week when a two-year program at Walter Reed General Hospital was voted on favorably by the Council on Dental Education.... Total A.D.A. membership reached 74,338 on June 30, an increase of 1,314 over the total on June 30, 1949. In breakdown the latest totals are: active, 63,142; life, 2,452; student, 8,438; affiliate, 234; relief recipients, 69, and associate, 2.... Preliminary results of the recent A.D.A. survey of dental practice will be mailed late this month to dentists who participated, Mr. B. Duane Moen, assistant director of the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, said this week. Complete results will be reported in a series of articles beginning in The Journal of the American Dental Association for August.... Dr. J. Russell Mitchell, of Atlanta, Ga., a member of the A.D.A. Council on Relief, died July 1.... Dr. C. S. Renouard, of Butte, secretary of the Montana State Dental Society, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, succeeding the late Dr. Herbert E. King, of Omaha, Neb.... The Federal Security Administration recently allotted grants totalling \$63,768 to dental schools for support and improvement of cancer instruction. Now all but three of the nation's 41 dental schools receive such grants.