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SPECIAL DRAFT OF DENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS FOR MILITARY SERVICE IS OK'D BY CONGRESS -- AIMED PRIMARILY AT EX-ASTP AND V-12 TRAINEES

Legislation authorizing the armed forces to draft dentists and physicians for 21 months of military service was approved by both houses of Congress this week. The Senate took action Tuesday (Aug. 29), approving a bill which would require the registration and permit the draft, as needed, of all dentists under 45 years of age and all physicians under 55 years of age. An almost identical bill, except that it put the age limit at 50 for both dentists and physicians, was approved Wednesday (Aug. 30) by the House of Representatives. Both bills specify that dentists and physicians who received all or part of their training at government expense or who were deferred to complete their professional education during World War II would be the first to be called for active duty with the armed forces. Both the Senate and the House acted speedily on the bills after committees reported that all branches of the armed forces were critically short of dental and medical officers. The Department of Defense has indicated that it may soon require an additional 5,000 physicians and 2,600 dentists. Differences between the Senate and House bills are scheduled to be ironed out in conference and the final draft submitted to the White House for President Truman's signature within a few days. Registration and the draft of physicians and dentists would be handled through Selective Service. Anyone drafted under the bill would be inducted in an enlisted status. Thereafter, dentists and physicians could apply for commissions. Congressmen as well as defense officials were hopeful that passage of the legislation would step up the number of volunteers for both the dental and medical corps. Medical and dental volunteers, it was pointed out, are eligible for a \$100 a month salary bonus.

EXPECT SPEEDY ACTION ON REGISTRATION CALL

In view of the immediate need of the armed forces for dental and medical officers, it is expected that Selective Service will move rapidly to institute a nation-wide registration of professional men within the specified age groups as soon as the measure is signed by President Truman. No estimate was immediately available, however, on how soon the first dental and medical personnel could be called. Both the Senate and the House bills provided for the following priority for registration and induction of dentists and physicians:

First -- Those persons who participated as students in the Army Specialized Training Program or similar programs of the Navy, and those persons who were deferred from service during World War II for the purpose of pursuing a course of instruction leading to education in the fields of dentistry or medicine who have had less than 90 days of active duty with the armed forces subsequent to the completion of or release from the program or course of instruction.

Second -- Those in group one who have had 90 days or more but less than 21 months of active duty in the armed forces.

Third -- Those who did not have active service in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or the Public Health Service subsequent to Sept. 16, 1940.

Fourth -- Those not included in the first and second priorities who have had active service with the armed forces since Sept. 16, 1940. These may be divided into sub-groups according to full months of service. Groups with the least service would be called first.

PRESIDENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SET DEFERMENT RULES

The new legislation authorizes the President to establish rules and regulations for deferments of dentists and physicians, taking into consideration the length of their previous service in the armed forces, the extent of training received at government expense, reasons of hardship or dependency and the maintenance of the national health safety or interest. The bills also specify that "It is the sense of the Congress that the President shall provide for the annual deferment from training and service...numbers of premedical and pre-dental students at least equal to the present numbers of male premedical and pre-dental students in attendance at colleges and universities in the United States." The appointment of a national advisory committee to selective services composed of outstanding members of the professions of medicine, dentistry and allied fields is also specified in the legislation.

TOP ROLE IN DRAFT URGED FOR N.S.R.B.

At hearings before the Armed Services committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, Dr. Philip E. Adams, A.D.A. president, urged that Congress assign final authority over the special doctor-draft to the National Security Resources Board. While pointing out that the A.D.A. favored legislation which would enforce the "moral obligation" of ex-ASTP and V-12 trainees to volunteer for active duty, Dr. Adams warned that civilian needs for professional health services might be endangered if the draft were left solely in the hands of either the Department of Defense or Selective Service. He said:

"It is the firm belief of the Association that the history of personnel management by the armed forces in World War II clearly demonstrates that the services should not be entrusted with the sole determination of our several national needs. Nor should they be permitted to compete among themselves for the services of large groups of specialized personnel at the expense of civilian defense and the normal needs of civilians who must provide the materials of war from the home front."

CONGRESS APPROVES V.A. DENTAL SPECIALISTS BILL

A bill placing dental specialists on a par with medical specialists in the Veterans Administration was approved by the Senate and forwarded to the White House for President Truman's signature this week. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives last month. Proposed legislation to provide federal aid for medical and dental schools, also supported by the A.D.A., was tabled last week by a vote of 9 to 8 of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Meanwhile, two new aid-to-education bills were introduced in Congress. One, H.R. 9508, sponsored by Rep. Biemiller (D., Wis.), proposed that the federal government make grants to medical and dental schools limited to the construction of buildings and the purchase of equipment. A second bill, H.R. 9501, sponsored by Rep. Hare (D., S.C.), proposes that the government pay tuition and an allowance of \$75 per month for dental and medical students who agree to serve in the armed forces for the same period of time that they accept government assistance while at school.

A.D.A. INVITED TO TESTIFY ON VOLUNTARY HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

The A.D.A. has been invited to testify at a Senate hearing on voluntary health insurance plans to be conducted Sept. 9 by a subcommittee on health, headed by Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont.). The subcommittee has been authorized to make a study of health insurance programs in the United States. It is ordered to make a report by next February on the result of its study together with any health insurance legislation it might wish to recommend.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED THIS FALL AT NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ON DENTAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Construction will start this fall on new dental school buildings at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Construction work at Chapel Hill will coincide with the official opening of the dental school there. A first class of 40 students will be enrolled for the university's first freshmen dental class, it was announced by Dr. John C. Brauer, dean of the school. Dr. Brauer said the class will receive instruction in the basic sciences at the university's school of medicine while pre-clinical technic classes will be held in a temporary building. Three faculty appointments have been made, including Dr. Claude R. Baker, Dr. R. E. Sturdevant and Dr. C. M. Sturdevant. The three-story building planned for the Chapel Hill campus is expected to be completed in the spring of 1952. The University of Southern California dental school building is also planned as a three-story structure. It will cost approximately \$2,250,000 and will be built on the Los Angeles campus where Dr. Robert W. McNulty, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, today (Sept. 1) assumes his new post as dean of the dental school.

INTERNATIONAL DENTAL JOURNAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER

The first edition of the new International Dental Journal, sponsored by the Federation Dentaire Internationale, is scheduled for publication this month. Final plans for the publication were announced at the 38th annual meeting of the F.D.I. last July in Paris. It will be issued quarterly. The scientific section of the publication will include papers and discussions of papers presented at International Dental Congresses of the F.D.I. It will also report proceedings of business sessions. The editor is Dr. Hubert H. Stones, of Liverpool, England, professor of dental surgery and director of dental education at the University of Liverpool and honorary director of the Liverpool Dental Hospital. He has been associated with the Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Leeds and Manchester and is the author of a widely-used textbook, "Oral and Dental Diseases." The new journal will be published in English. There will be summaries of each article in French, Spanish and Italian with legends also in several languages. F.D.I. members in the United States may obtain an annual subscription to the journal, consisting of four issues, by sending a subscription of \$5.60 directly to the publishers, Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd., 37 St. Andrews Hill, London, E.C., England. Individual memberships in the F.D.I. are now available to American dentists and may be secured on application to Dr. Oren A. Oliver, 1101 Medical Arts Bldg., Nashville, Tenn. F.D.I. dues are \$5 a year.

APPLICATIONS TO DENTAL SCHOOLS STAY AT HIGH LEVEL

American dental schools have at least as many applicants for their 1950 freshman classes as they had in 1947 despite the greatly lowered percentage of students who are veterans, according to Dr. Shailer Peterson, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. Dr. Peterson said dental schools had reported a total of about 11,000 applicants and 18,000 separate applications for 3,100 openings in freshman classes. Results of another study just released by the Council showed significant differences between the freshman classes of 1949 and 1946. The average age had dropped from 25.1 to 24, the percentage married dropped from 46.8 to 37.4, and the percentage of veterans fell from 87.3 to 73.

MR. MICHAEL R. MORAN TO JOIN A.D.A. STAFF AS HEALTH EDUCATOR

Appointment of Mr. Michael Moran, formerly of Charleston, W. Va., as a health educator on the staff of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health was announced last week by Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary. Mr. Moran, who will assume his new duties this week, will direct the Division of Dental Health Education under the supervision of Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the Council. He comes to the Central Office from the position of health education consultant in the West Virginia State Health Department. In his new capacity, Mr. Moran will develop health education material, work with dental societies and other groups concerned with dental health education and plan the expansion of dental health education services.

ERWIN D. CANHAM, EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, TO ADDRESS GENERAL SESSION AT 91ST ANNUAL A.D.A. MEETING

Erwin Dain Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, will be one of the principal speakers at the general meeting of the 91st annual session of the A.D.A. to be held in Atlantic City Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, it has been announced by Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, A.D.A. president. The general meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, in the American Room of the Traymore Hotel and is open to all dentists and guests. Mr. Canham, who has travelled extensively in the Far East and in Europe in his 25-year career as a newspaperman and public official, has chosen as his subject, "The Basic Challenge: An Editor Examines the Crisis of Our Time." He is a director of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and acting chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Information to advise on the State Department's international information program. Last year he was named alternate U.S. delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ESTABLISH NEW RECORD

With the convention still two months away, applications for hotel reservations were being received at a record pace. More than 3,000 hotel rooms and suites have already been reserved for convention visitors. The advance reservations, being handled by the A.D.A. Housing Bureau at 16 Central Pier, Atlantic City, point to the largest meeting in the Association's history with nearly 15,000 expected to attend. Ample hotel space is assured by the large number of leading hotels at the noted seaside resort. The four-day convention will feature 77 essayists at 10 scientific sections, nearly 200 separate table clinics, a continuous motion picture program and nearly 50 scientific exhibits. All the scientific sessions will be presented at Convention Hall.

FOUR FOREIGN SCHOOLS SEEK U.S. INSTRUCTORS

Four schools of dentistry abroad are seeking U.S. members of the profession to serve as visiting lecturers for the academic year 1951-52 under the auspices of the U.S. State Department and the Fulbright Act. Openings are in Norway, the Netherlands, the Philippines and New Zealand. The deadline for applications is Oct. 15. Information may be obtained from the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D.C.

ERRATA

The Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations has at no time considered forming a joint standing committee with any laboratory association, Dr. Frederick W. Herbine, of Reading, Pa., Council chairman, pointed out last week. It was erroneously reported in the Aug. 1 issue of the A.D.A. News Letter that appointment of a joint committee of representatives of the A.D.A. and the American Dental Laboratory Association had been proposed at a recent meeting of the Council.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Olin E. Hoffman, of Des Moines, Ia., has been appointed state dental director of the Washington State Department of Health, succeeding Dr. W. Philip Phair, who is now with the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health. Dr. Hoffman was state dental director in Iowa....The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, of Battle Creek, Mich., has authorized a grant of \$141,712 to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the expansion of its field training program for public health workers....Further deterioration in the quality of medical care under the British National Health Service Act was reported by a committee of the American Medical Association which recently returned from a six-week study in England....The Canadian Dental Association has purchased a new headquarters building on St. George St. in Toronto and will occupy it this fall....A total of 285 communities in 30 states and the District of Columbia has established topical fluoride programs for children, the U.S. Public Health Service has reported....A.D.A. membership in the national Commission on Chronic Illness, with Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the Council on Dental Health, as A.D.A. representative, has been authorized by the Association's Board of Trustees.