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News Letter

Vol. 4, No. 9 - April 16, 1951

JOINT COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SENATE AND HOUSE VERSIONS OF NEW DRAFT BILL

A Senate-House conference committee was working on a compromise draft bill this week after the House approved a modified measure last Friday (April 13). The House version differed in several major respects from the Senate bill which was passed March 9. Of particular interest to dentistry, the House imposed no ceiling on military manpower while the Senate limited the armed forces to 4,000,000 men; the House increased the period of service from 21 to 26 months while the Senate had extended the service period to 24 months; the House voted to drop the minimum draft age to 18-1/2 and the Senate to 18 as compared with the present minimum of 19; the House extended the draft law three years and the Senate extended it indefinitely; the House provided for a standby program of universal military training with no inductions permitted unless Congress passes a UMT law while the Senate gave the President authority to institute a UMT program when drafted men no longer are needed for military training; the House placed no ceiling on the number of specialized students who could be deferred by Presidential decree while the Senate gave the President authority to defer up to 75,000 specialized students annually for professional and scientific training. The House also approved a proposal to exempt from draft and reserve calls dentists and physicians over the age of 30 who are employed fulltime at veterans' hospitals. The House rejected the administration's plan to determine deferment of college students through nationwide aptitude tests. The final authority was left to local draft boards. Selective Service officials said the proposal would not upset their plans for the first three tests, to be given May 26, June 16 and June 30. Students who make a score of 70 or better on the tests would be entitled to consideration by their local boards for deferment to start another college year. Earlier, the Defense Department advised the nation's draft boards to delay temporarily the inductions that had been planned for May pending possible "readjustments" of the 60,000 quota. At the same time, the Defense Department disclosed that no more inactive Army or Air Force reservists will be called to active duty against their wishes unless there is a "significant" change in the present manpower picture.

A.D.A. URGES CONGRESS TO EARMARK FUNDS FOR DENTAL PROGRAMS IN AID TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS - GRANTS FOR FLUORIDATION TO BE SOUGHT

Three bills calling for expanded federal aid to local public health units were endorsed in principle by the A.D.A. before Congress last week. In testimony filed with the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, which has been conducting hearings on the measures (H.R. 274, H.R. 913 and S. 445), the Association urged, however, that a portion of the funds be specifically earmarked for dental health programs. Dr. Allen O. Gruebel, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, pointed out that expanded dental health activities are needed in every community. He said surveys had demonstrated that less than one-half of one per cent of all funds appropriated for public health services are allocated to dental health programs---"an amount completely out of proportion...when it is considered that 95 per cent of the total U. S. population is afflicted with dental disease." Dr. Gruebel also urged that the bills emphasize the need for such preventive measures as fluoridation of public water supplies (see below), topical application of fluorides, bacteriologic and chemical diagnostic services for the dental profession, epidemiologic studies of dental diseases, dental health education programs and oral cancer control. "The use of public funds at the community level for such pro-

grams," Dr. Gruebbel said, "will be far more efficacious, and far less costly, than other proposals which seek direct treatment programs for already diseased teeth." Dr. Gruebbel underscored the fact that the A.D.A. recommended that funds be made available in the form of grants-in-aid without any federal control of local or state programs.

A.D.A. TO RENEW REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR RESEARCH BUILDING

funds be appropriated for construction of a \$2,000,000 building to house the National Institute of Dental Research at Bethesda, Md. To date, only \$100,000 has been appropriated of the \$2,000,000 originally authorized for the structure. Association representatives will also urge that the U. S. Public Health Service be authorized to provide technical assistance to communities for the fluoridation of public water supplies under its grants-in-aid program.

A.D.A. representatives are also scheduled to present testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee within the next two weeks urging that

70 CITIES AND TOWNS SERVED BY FLUORIDATION - CLEVELAND ADOPTS PROCEDURE, DENTAL LEADERS TESTIFY ON BENEFITS FOR ST. LOUIS

More than 70 cities and towns were fluoridating their domestic water supplies last week and a number of additional communities were making plans to install the dental health measure. In Ohio, the Cleveland City Council endorsed the procedure for the city's 900,000 residents, making it the largest city in the country to adopt the caries-control measure. Spearheading the Ohio action were the Cleveland Dental Society, the Ohio State Dental Association and a fluoridation committee, headed by Dr. Ralph E. Creig, of Cleveland. The Ohio State Department of Health also approved fluoridation. In St. Louis, last week, representatives of the St. Louis Dental Society, the Missouri State Dental Association and the St. Louis Medical Society conferred with Mayor Joseph Darst and other municipal officials and adopted a resolution proposing that the city take steps immediately for the addition of fluorides to the water supply. The action came after national leaders of the dental profession, in St. Louis for the annual meeting of the Missouri State Dental Association, testified at the conference as to the benefits of fluoridation. They included: Dr. Harold W. Oppice, of Chicago, A.D.A. president; Dr. H. Trendley Dean, of Bethesda, Md., director of the National Institute of Dental Research of the U. S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GIVES APPROVAL

health for New York state, announced that the department was urging all communities able to treat their water supplies to make application to the department. Under New York law, the state must supervise all such programs. Dr. Hilleboe's announcement was based on the results of the six-year studies at Newburgh and Kingston, conducted by Dr. David B. Ast, state dental director. Dr. Hilleboe pointed out that findings indicated that among five to six-year-old children in Newburgh there had been a 115 per cent increase in the number of children with all their first teeth free of decay as compared with the control city of Kingston. He emphasized that "absolutely no harmful effects have been observed which might be attributed to fluorine." Dr. Ast reported that New Rochelle, N. Y., already has had plans for water fluoridation approved by the state health department, while Rochester, N. Y., was ready to submit its application. The executive council of the Dental Society of the State of New York approved fluoridation last September.

The health department of the nation's most populous state last week gave its approval to fluoridation. Dr. Herman E. Hilleboe, commissioner of

SEVEN MIDWEST STATES TO CONFER ON FLUORIDATION

U. S. Public Health Service in Regions IV and V are in charge of a two-day conference on fluoridation to be held April 25-26 at offices of the Wisconsin State Board of Health in Madison. The meeting will include inspection trips to seven nearby towns served by artificially fluoridated water. Chairman of the meeting is Dr. Francis A. Bull, Wisconsin director of dental health. States to be represented at the meeting will be Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. A similar conference is scheduled for the state of Washington on April 27 at Seattle. The meeting is sponsored by the Washington State Dental Association,

Workshops on fluoridation were scheduled throughout the country. State dental directors of seven midwestern states and the dental division of the

A.D.A. RELIEF FUND DRIVE NEARS 90 PER CENT MARK;
 TWENTY-ONE SOCIETIES TOP QUOTAS IN 1950-51 DRIVE

The 1950-51 A.D.A. Relief Fund neared the 90 per cent mark in mid-April with a total of \$88,032.38 in contributions received up to April 11. Two new states, Arizona and Utah, passed the 100 per cent mark, bringing to 21 the number of societies which have oversubscribed their quota. Alabama continued to lead the nation with 206 per cent of its quota contributed. Southern California, with contributions equal to 200 per cent of its quota, was a close second, having contributed \$999 in the past month. Other societies topping their quotas were: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Panama Canal Zone, Tennessee and Washington. The drive will continue during the next two months in an effort to reach the national goal of \$100,000. Contributions by constituent societies to March 13 follow:

	TO APRIL 11			TO APRIL 11		
1950-51	CONTRI-		1950-51	CONTRI-		
QUOTAS	BUTIONS	PCT	QUOTAS	BUTIONS	PCT	
Affiliate	\$ 132.99		Navy	\$ 880.00	\$ 515.00 58.5	
Air Force	\$ 480.00	357.15 74.4	Nebraska	1130.00	1225.70 108.5	
Alabama	780.00	1606.50 206.0	Nevada	90.00	106.50 118.3	
Alaska	40.00	45.00 112.5	New Hampshire	290.00	251.00 86.6	
Arizona	280.00	299.50 107.0	New Jersey	4220.00	4023.25 95.3	
Arkansas	480.00	574.65 119.7	New Mexico	200.00	237.00 118.5	
Army	490.00	327.00 66.7	New York	15590.00	10290.65 66.0	
California	3670.00	3102.75 84.5	North Carolina	1220.00	1319.00 108.1	
Calif., So.	4420.00	8820.75 200.0	North Dakota	330.00	451.55 136.8	
Colorado	890.00	944.00 106.1	Ohio	4890.00	3917.58 80.1	
Connecticut	1920.00	1714.50 89.3	Oklahoma	910.00	1280.50 140.7	
Delaware	160.00	102.00 63.8	Oregon	1170.00	1255.50 107.3	
Dist. of Col.	810.00	833.48 102.9	Panama C. Z.	30.00	49.00 163.3	
Florida	1200.00	1197.50 99.8	Pennsylvania	7140.00	5166.65 72.4	
Georgia	990.00	1143.50 115.5	P. H. Service	250.00	134.00 53.6	
Hawaii	370.00	394.00 106.5	Puerto Rico	270.00	105.00 38.9	
Idaho	270.00	269.50 99.8	Rhode Island	530.00	274.00 51.7	
Illinois	7570.00	6218.72 82.1	South Carolina	440.00	230.00 52.3	
Indiana	2220.00	1869.00 84.2	South Dakota	350.00	259.50 74.1	
Iowa	1800.00	1522.50 84.6	Tennessee	1150.00	1507.00 131.0	
Kansas	1040.00	846.36 81.4	Texas	3100.00	2053.15 66.2	
Kentucky	1070.00	837.50 78.3	Unorganized		10.00	
Louisiana	990.00	638.50 64.5	Utah	490.00	537.50 109.7	
Maine	460.00	345.20 75.0	Vermont	190.00	108.50 57.1	
Maryland	1040.00	938.00 90.2	Vet. Admin.	1040.00	365.00 35.1	
Massachusetts	3720.00	2666.65 71.7	Virginia	1150.00	995.75 86.6	
Michigan	3830.00	3163.50 82.6	Washington	1670.00	1782.00 106.7	
Minnesota	2990.00	2454.90 82.1	West Virginia	740.00	707.00 95.5	
Mississippi	530.00	379.10 71.5	Wisconsin	2890.00	1856.50 64.2	
Missouri	2620.00	2283.50 87.2	Wyoming	170.00	145.00 85.3	
Montana	350.00	373.65 106.8	Students		471.75	
			TOTALS	\$100,000.00	\$88,032.38 88.0	

the Association of Washington Cities and Towns, the University of Washington where the meeting will be held, the Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Washington State Medical Association and the Washington State Department of Health. Another meeting is planned for Spokane, Wash., April 28. Adoption of fluoridation for communities in Iowa was discussed last week at a two-day course on the procedure at Iowa State University at Iowa City. The course was presented by the state health department and the Iowa section of the American Water Works Association. The Iowa State Dental Association has endorsed the measure. Meanwhile, the American Journal of Public Health pointed out editorially that "protective treatment with fluorides has been whole-heartedly accepted by the dental profession." Citing the number of cities with fluoridation, the editorial demanded, "What are the rest of us waiting for?" For regions of the country where fluorosis is endemic, the U. S. Public Health Service announced that a patent had been granted to Mr. F. J. Maier, one of its senior sanitary engineers, for his invention of a device for removing excess fluorides from community water supplies.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE "ALMOST IN RUINS," BRITISH SURVEY REVEALS

Further evidence of the neglect of children's dental health under Britain's National Health Service was revealed recently in a survey made by the Municipal Journal, published in London. According to press dispatches, the 58-year-old publication found that Britain's school dental service was "almost in ruins." Asserting that the government has provided dental care for adults at the expense of proper preventive treatment for children, the report said that the school dental service has dwindled to the point where the school dentist is finding that irreparable damage has already been done to children's teeth before he is able to make his very infrequent inspections. Meanwhile, the British government has disclosed that the state health program is expected to cost \$1,114,000,000 in the next fiscal year, an increase of \$14,000,000 over the current year. It was pointed out that the cost may be even higher if physicians are successful in their demand for more money under a renewed threat of withdrawing from the state scheme. Drastic health service cuts have been predicted. Charges are expected to be imposed for artificial dentures. These have been free along with eye glasses, hearing aids and artificial limbs.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DENTAL GRADUATES BRIGHT, GOVERNMENT SURVEY SHOWS

The dental profession offers excellent opportunities for those able to gain admittance to dental schools and complete necessary requirements, according to a recent survey for the Veterans Administration by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor. The survey credited the shortage of dentists to the growing demand for dental services and the relatively small increase in the number of practicing dentists. In the past decade, the survey pointed out, dental school graduation averaged 2,100, slightly more than the death and retirement rate but not enough to handle increased demands for dental services.

CANADA LISTS 4,912 DENTISTS, ONE FOR EVERY 2,819 PERSONS

There are 4,912 dentists in Canada -- one for every 2,819 persons -- the Canadian Dental Association has reported. The U. S. ratio is one dentist for every 1,733 persons. The Canadian report, which showed an increase of 720 dentists in 12 years, revealed that 65 per cent of the profession is centered in the two most populous provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Ontario, seat of the capital, has the best dentist-population ratio with one dentist for every 2,146 persons. Least favorable ratio was reported for Newfoundland, with one dentist for every 16,905 persons.

DENTAL SCHOOLS OFFER 1,216 GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE COURSES

A total of 1,216 graduate, postgraduate, refresher and new courses are being offered this year by dental schools, according to a recent report by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. This is an increase of 35 per cent over the 898 courses offered last year.

FURTHER DECLINE IN CARIES INCIDENCE REPORTED FOR ASKOV, MINN.

A further decline in incidence of dental caries has been revealed in a second progress report for Askov, Minn., "dental laboratory of the nation." The small farming village, which contained not a single dentist and had a high caries rate, was selected two years ago for a 10-year experiment in dental disease control. For the 350 children in the study, the percentage of reduction in the caries rate ranged from 41.6 per cent in the three-to-five age group to 8.4 per cent in the 13-to-17 group. The study is sponsored by the Minnesota State Dental Association, the Minnesota Department of Health, the U. S. Children's Bureau and the community of Askov.

NEW FILM ON CASTING OF DENTAL GOLD ALLOYS AVAILABLE

A 16 mm. sound and color film on the casting of dental gold alloys is now available for loan or purchase from the Office of Scientific Publications, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. The 18-1/2-minute film, entitled "The Casting of Dental Gold Alloys: Thermal Expansion Technique," was produced by the National Bureau of Standards in cooperation with the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research.

COLUMBIA DENTIST REPORTS SUCCESSFUL TOOTH TRANSPLANTATION IN CATS

The successful transplantation of tooth buds from one cat to another was announced recently at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, New York. Dr. Harry H. Shapiro, assistant professor of anatomy, who has conducted 11 years of research in the field, cautioned, however, that there is no assurance that the transplantation would be as successful in humans. "A great deal of additional work, dealing with the exact manner in which these teeth become re-established, is necessary before this technic should be attempted with human beings," he emphasized. Dr. Shapiro reported that in addition to transferring developing permanent teeth from one young cat to another, teeth have also been transplanted from one jaw to the other in the same animal.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A law calling for a member of the dental profession to be included on the 10-member Kansas State Board of Health was passed recently by the state legislature. The action was sponsored by the Kansas State Dental Association....Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, has been appointed dental representative on the National Committee for the Improvement of Nursing Services....Dr. Norman C. Kiefer, formerly director of the Health Resources Office, National Security Resources Board, has been named director of the division of health services and special weapons defense, National Civil Defense Administration. His successor at the N.S.R.B. is Dr. Will H. Aufranc, named acting director....The University of Washington School of Dentistry together with the Washington State Department of Health has announced that culture media for use in bacteriologic determination of root canal sterility will be supplied free for dentists on request to the state laboratory in Seattle....The annual meeting of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research at the National Bureau of Standards will be held May 12....The American Association of Industrial Dentists will meet April 24-26 in Atlantic City, N. J....The commercial preparations, Trigesic and Trigesic with Codeine, have been withdrawn from the market by E. R. Squibb and Sons following reports of three cases of granulocytopenia possibly attributable to their use....An award for meritorious service has been conferred on Dr. Wilmer Souder, consultant to the National Bureau of Standards and honorary A.D.A. member, by the U. S. Department of Commerce for "outstanding accomplishments over a period of many years in the initiation and development of the technology of dental materials."....Dr. Clarence F. Holmes, of Denver, Colo., was recently cited for his "outstanding service in human relations" by B'nai B'rith, national Jewish organization....The Mid-Year Symposium of the American Academy of Oral Pathology will be held May 19 at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D. C. The subject will be "Dermatologic-like Lesions of the Oral Cavity."....A total of 18,500,000 children were born in the United States in the five years since the end of World War II (1946-50), a higher total than in any previous five-year period in the country's history, the U. S. Public Health Service has reported.