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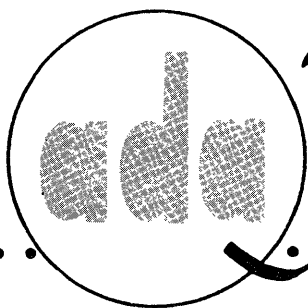


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News Letter

Vol. 4, No. 10 - May 1, 1951

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BEGIN DRAFT OF PHYSICIANS IN JULY; REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL OFFICERS ARE BEING MET BY VOLUNTEERS

Faced with a serious shortage of medical officers, the Department of Defense has announced that it would begin to draft physicians in Priority I during July unless the number of volunteers for medical commissions is increased sharply during the next two months. To date, the number of volunteers for dental commissions from those in Priority I has been sufficient to meet current requirements. In a formal announcement issued April 23, the Defense Department asked that 1,202 physicians be called into active service during July, August and September. Since the special draft law was enacted last October, all quotas for medical and dental officers have been met by volunteers. Defense Department spokesmen said that it was expected that by fall most of the available Priority I physicians and dentists -- those who were trained at government expense or deferred during World War II to complete their educations and who have served less than ninety days of active duty -- would be in service and that calls would have to be made on those in Priority II. In the latter group are those who were deferred or trained at government expense but who had served more than 90 days but less than 21 months of active duty. Meanwhile, Selective Service directed local draft boards to reclassify as I-A or I-A-O (immediately available for service) all medical and dental interns or residents who are now classified in II-A. Pointing out that dentists and physicians can perform service in the armed forces with the least inconvenience to themselves and with the least dislocation of community health service immediately following the end of their periods of internship or residency, Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey advised all interns and residents in Classes I-A, I-A-O, or II-A to apply immediately for commissions in the armed services. Such registrants who receive reserve commissions will not be ordered to active duty until next July, thus enabling them to complete their residencies or internships. Local boards were directed to process those who do not apply for commissions as soon as possible.

MacARTHUR HEARINGS DELAY ACTION ON NEW DRAFT BILL

Final action by Senate-House conferees on the pending draft and universal military training bill will be delayed two weeks to a month as a result of the Senate hearings planned on the issues raised by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, it was reported from Washington today. The bill has been in conference since the House of Representatives approved its version of the bill on April 13. To date, the conferees have agreed that final authority on the deferment of students is to be left to local Selective Service boards rather than to be determined by the grades of individual students on aptitude tests as proposed by Selective Service Director Hershey. The student aptitude tests will be given throughout the nation on May 26, June 16, June 30 and July 12. The conferees approved without change the provision of the House bill that the President would establish policies for student deferments to be carried out by local boards. The boards, if they wish, may ignore scores on the tests. The conferees, in accepting the House version on student deferments, eliminated the Senate-approved provision for the deferment of 75,000 students annually for professional and scientific training after they had taken four months of basic training. Conferees have also agreed on a House provision that high school students should be deferred until graduation or the age of 20. Also accepted was a House proposal to make deferred men liable for the draft until they reach the age of 35. No action has as yet been taken on the major differences in the universal military training features of the bill or the minimum draft age. The Senate approved the draft of 18-year-olds while the House set the minimum age at 18-1/2 years.

A.D.A. TO TESTIFY MAY 15 ON FLUORIDATION, RESEARCH BUILDING GRANTS

The A.D.A. is scheduled to present testimony May 15 before the Senate Appropriations Committee. Technical assistance to communities for fluoridation of public water supplies under the grants-in-aid program of the U. S. Public Health Service will be urged by Dr. E. Harold Gale, of Albany, N. Y., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, and Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health. The Association representatives will also urge appropriations for construction of a separate building for the National Institute of Dental Research at Bethesda, Md. Of the \$2,000,000 originally authorized for the structure, only \$100,000 has been appropriated. In other action on the legislative front, an A.D.A.-sponsored Army dental bill was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Hunt (D., Wyo.). The bill (S. 1306), which would permit the dental officers to control dental installations without interference by non-dental officers, resulting in improved dental care for Army personnel, was referred to the Armed Services Committee. Two similar measures (H.R. 164 and 344) are pending in the House of Representatives. A bill designed to place dentistry in the U. S. Public Health Service on a par with dentistry in the Army and the Navy was presented to the Senate by Sen. Murray (D., Mont.). The bill (S. 1320) would give the chief dental officer in the U. S. Public Health Service the rank of major general. The measure was sent to the Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

MINNEAPOLIS STAR BACKS FLUORIDATION OF WATER

In its lead editorial on April 25 the Minneapolis Star commended members of the dental profession for urging the fluoridation of community water supplies

as a caries control measure. The editorial was entitled "Hats Off to These Public-Spirited Dentists!" It follows in full:

THE STAR thinks a word of commendation is in order for the dental organizations which have been leading the campaign for fluorides in public water supplies.

Some suspicious persons ask what the dentists expect to get out of this health measure. They're going to get the satisfaction of seeing young America grow up with better teeth. Beyond that, the change probably will cost them business, for fluoridation of drinking water is estimated to cut by 60 per cent the number of teeth affected by decay.

An article in an adjoining column explains what fluoridation means. It should be emphasized that if and when Minneapolis and other Upper Midwest communities add fluorides to their water, immediate results may not be expected.

Three to five years must pass before definite benefits can be established. And then the gains will be mostly apparent among children who started using fluoridated water at an early age.

New stories that the Minneapolis council was considering fluoridation already have brought protests to city health officials from citizens who object to "putting things in the water."

Fluorides in recommended amounts have no color, taste or odor. There is no effect in the laundry.

The cost in Minneapolis -- probably about \$50,000 a year -- would be a negligible addition to water bills. The expense would be far outweighed by the savings in dental bills.

That's why Minneapolis should start fluoridation as soon as possible and why dentists deserve a hearty vote of thanks for their interest in this public health project.

INCOME TAX DEDUCTION IS PROPOSED FOR VOLUNTARY PENSION PLAN

A plan whereby professional men and other self-employed persons could set aside, prior to income taxes, a portion of their earnings during high income years for a pension or retirement income later in life has been submitted to the Congress by Rep. Coudert (R., N. Y.). In a bill (H.R. 3456) introduced in the House of Representatives, Rep. Coudert proposes that federal income tax laws be amended so that a self-employed person could deduct from his gross income for payment annually into a special retirement or pension trust a sum not to exceed 15 per cent

of his net income or \$10,000, whichever is the lesser. This sum would not be subject to federal income tax during the year it was earned. Instead, federal income taxes would be assessed against the funds as they are withdrawn later, either as a pension or an annuity. The general purpose of the proposal is to permit a taxpayer whose income is derived primarily from his own earnings a chance to use his high income years to provide for his old age when his earned income will be considerably reduced or non-existent. The principle of the proposed legislation has been endorsed by the A.D.A. and Association representatives have asked to testify should public hearings be called by the House Ways and Means Committee. The American Bar Association also has endorsed the proposal. Dr. William McGill Burns, of Brooklyn, A.D.A. trustee for New York, served as an observer for the A.D.A. when the plan was first considered in 1948 by a committee organized by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

HOUSING BUREAU FOR 92ND ANNUAL MEETING OF A.D.A. AT WASHINGTON, D. C., OPENS TODAY -- 34 HOTELS PLEDGE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEETING OCT. 15-18

A total of 34 hotels in Washington, D. C., has pledged accommodations for the forthcoming 92nd annual meeting of the A.D.A., Dr. David J. Fitzgibbon, of Washington, general chairman of local arrangements for the meeting, reported this week. Preparations for the annual session, to be held Oct. 15-18 in the nation's capital, took a big step forward today with the official opening of the A.D.A. Housing Bureau for the convention. Application blanks for making hotel reservations, together with a map indicating the locations of the hotels that will house convention visitors, will be published in The Journal of the American Dental Association, beginning with the May issue out this week. It is advised that applications for hotel reservations be made as early as possible so that visitors to the meeting will be assigned to hotels of their choice. Reservations may be obtained by filling out the application blank and mailing it to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 204 Star Building, Washington 4, D. C. Official hotels for the meeting have been designated as the Statler and the Mayflower.

A.D.A. TO PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE CONFERENCE

The A.D.A. has accepted an invitation to participate in a two-day conference on civil defense called by Administrator Millard Caldwell of the Federal Civil Defense Administration for May 7-8 at the Statler Hotel in Washington, D. C. A number of national health organizations will be represented at the meeting. In addition to forums on civil defense, there will be talks by President Truman, Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall and Gov. Earl Warren of California.

STATE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11-13

For the fourth consecutive year, secretaries and executive secretaries of state dental societies have been invited to participate in a conference on management at the Central Office. The conference, to be held June 11-13, will be concerned with problems of constituent societies as related to component societies and to the Association. There will be such topics as "Anatomy of the Constituent Society," "Record Keeping for Constituent Societies," "Mechanics for Handling Memberships," "A Suggested Program for Securing New Members," "The Prospective Dental Student," "Methods of Handling Complaints and Referrals" and "Handling of the Relief Program at the State Level." There will also be group meetings for discussion of specific problems of constituent societies. In charge of arrangements is Dr. Louis M. Cruttenden, of Chicago, assistant A.D.A. secretary.

RADIO SERIES ON COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS TO START MAY 12

A new series of five weekly radio broadcasts on community health programs will begin May 12. Sponsored by the Health Information Foundation and the National Broadcasting Company, the series will describe how various communities solved their health problems. The programs, narrated by Ben Grauer, will be heard on five successive Saturdays from 5:30 to 6 p.m. (EDT). The Health Information Foundation is a fact-finding organization designed to report and stimulate community health programs.

REDUCED HEALTH BENEFITS IMPERIL LIFE OF BRITISH LABOR GOVERNMENT

The soaring costs of the British health program precipitated a cabinet upheaval last week, imperiling the existence of the Labor government. The government's left wing openly revolted against party leadership and three ministers, headed by Aneurin Bevan, known as the father of Britain's national health scheme, resigned in dissatisfaction over the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Bevan, minister of labor and former minister of health, took issue with proposed reductions in benefits under the health program. The public would be obliged to pay half the cost of artificial dentures and eye glasses which, under the state health service, it has been receiving free of charge. Contending that the welfare state was being trimmed to meet demands of armed preparedness, Bevan threatened the already precarious footing of Prime Minister Clement Attlee in a House of Commons that contains a slim Laborite majority of only five seats. The budget sets up \$1,114,000,000 as the new cost of the health scheme, an increase of \$14,000,000 over the current year. In San Antonio, Tex., today, Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, described the British crisis as "but another example of the breakdown of health services when they are administered by government." Speaking at the annual meeting of the Texas State Dental Society, Dr. Hillenbrand said: "That the welfare of the patient takes a back seat to politics is amply demonstrated by the cabinet upheaval in Great Britain. As predicted, the government now feels impelled to charge patients for benefits. The reduction in benefits promised to the people by the biggest government health program in the world serves to confirm the fallacy of any government-administered program. You cannot play politics with health."

FLORIDA AND IDAHO TOP QUOTAS AS RELIEF FUND REACHES \$88,943

Florida and Idaho topped their quotas in the 1950-51 A.D.A. Relief Fund drive as contributions reached a record-high of \$88,943.13 on April 30. Twenty-three societies have now passed the 100 per cent mark while the national average is 88.9 per cent of the drive's \$100,000 goal. Three other states made substantial gains in the past two weeks - Kentucky with \$179 in contributions, Utah with \$148 and New York with \$132. Other societies which over-subscribed their quotas were: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, the Panama Canal Zone, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TO DEDICATE NEW DENTAL BUILDING MAY 15

The new dental building of the Ohio State University College of Dentistry, Columbus, will be formally dedicated May 15. The ceremony is part of a three-day Post-College Assembly, May 14-16, dedicating the new \$15,500,000 university Health Center. The four-story dental building is equipped with more than 200 dental chairs. In addition, it contains separate clinics for dental hygiene, post-graduate study and orthodontics. Speakers on the program will include Dr. Wendell D. Postle, dean of the College of Dentistry; Dr. Richard Meiling, chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary. Besides the dental building, the Health Center includes the 11-story 600-bed University Hospital, a 300-bed tuberculosis hospital and a 140-bed receiving hospital.

BRIEFS

New Mexico recently became the 47th state to authorize the licensing of dental hygienistsThe resignation of Dr. Richard L. Meiling, chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council of the Department of Defense, has been announced. Dr. Meiling was on leave from Ohio State University College of Medicine....The subcommittee on atomic energy of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research will make a survey of dental schools to learn whether they have an isotope committee and whether they are using radioisotopes....The Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children will hold its first annual meeting May 12 in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto....The annual reports of A.D.A. councils and bureaus are due July 15....The Fourth World Health Assembly will open May 7 at Geneva, Switzerland.