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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 06/01/1951" (1951). *ADA News Letter*. 83.
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/83>

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News Letter

Vol. 4, No. 12 - June 1, 1951

SENATE-HOUSE COMMITTEE AGREES ON NEW DRAFT BILL, UMT FRAMEWORK -- ARMED FORCES REPORT 3,240 DENTISTS CALLED TO DUTY IN PAST YEAR

Speedy congressional approval of a draft law was expected in the wake of final agreement reached last Monday by a Senate-House conference committee. The measure also provides a framework for universal military training, beginning at the age of 18. The compromise legislation would extend the draft law for four years until July 1, 1955, increase the period of service from 21 to 24 months, place an over-all ceiling of 5,000,000 on the size of the military force and lower the minimum draft age to 18-1/2. The bill also provides that members of the inactive or voluntary reserves who served 12 months during World War II can be discharged from active duty upon request after 17 months' service since the Korean war began on June 25. Other provisions include removal of draft deferment for men with wives as sole dependents, registration of all males at the age of 18 and the lowering of physical and mental standards so that 150,000 additional men can be inducted. The framework for universal military training is provided by a presidential-appointed five-man commission which would submit legislative recommendations to Congress. Individual UMT trainees would be liable for six months of training plus seven and one-half years' membership in the reserves. The draft bill also calls for the deferment of college students to be left to local draft boards although the national deferment tests may be used as guides. Approximately 175,000 young men took the first of four scheduled tests last Saturday. While the decision rests at draft board level, Selective Service has recommended that scores of at least 75 for freshmen and for seniors who plan to attend graduate schools and scores of 70 for sophomores and juniors should result in deferment. Selective Service announced that some 500,000 students, which would include pre-dental students, probably would be deferred under the testing system.

SELECTIVE SERVICE LISTS TOTAL OF 3,780 PRIORITY I DENTISTS

The Department of Defense reported to the A.D.A. this week that a total of approximately 3,240 reserve dentists has been ordered back into the armed forces since the outbreak of the Korean war. The Army recalled 1,563 reserve dentists of whom 1,175 were in Priority I. The Navy ordered back about 700 reserve dentists of whom a little more than half were in Priority I. In the Air Force, 977 reserve dentists have been recalled. Of these, about "a dozen" were reported in Priority I. Selective Service also reported its figures, as of April 30, on draft registrants. It said that Priority I registrants totaled 3,780 dentists and 10,366 physicians and Priority II included 730 dentists and 2,520 physicians. With an armed force ceiling of 5,000,000 men, as provided in the new draft bill, a total of 10,000 dentists could be called under the traditional ratio of two dentists per thousand military personnel. However, both the federal Health Resources Advisory Committee and the A.D.A. Board of Trustees have suggested a review of this traditional ratio (see A.D.A. News Letter, March 20 and April 1, 1951).

ORDER UNIFORM DENTAL FORM FOR ALL MILITARY SERVICES

A single uniform dental form will be in use by all branches of the armed forces by Aug. 1 under new regulations sponsored by the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council of the Department of Defense. The standardization program was worked out under the direction of Dr. James P. Hollers, of San Antonio, Tex., dental member of the council. The form, designed to present a clear picture of the professional and administrative

work load at each dental installation, takes the place of three major forms and a number of lesser reports. Standardization of the report followed agreement on a uniform dental classification of individuals and uniform specifications for conducting dental examinations. Also announced officially last week was transfer of the eight-member Health Resources Advisory Committee from the National Security Resources Board to the Office of Defense Mobilization, with no change in the committee's function.

NEW PRICE REGULATIONS AFFECT DENTAL MANUFACTURERS, LABORATORIES

Two regulations affecting dental products have been ordered into effect by the Office of Price Stabilization. Regulation No. 34, issued May 11 and effective May 16, fixes price ceilings on various technical services, including those provided by dental laboratories. It requires laboratories to observe ceiling prices based on price levels prevailing between Dec. 19, 1950, and Jan. 25, 1951. The laboratories are required to post the ceiling prices and to keep them on file in their offices and in the local OPS offices. In World War II, dental laboratories were specifically exempt from similar regulations issued by the Office of Price Administration. The second price-fixing regulation, No. 22, applies to manufacturers and was issued April 25 to go into effect May 28. It provides that all manufacturers, which include suppliers of dental products, must sell commodities that were sold between July 1, 1949, and June 24, 1950, at a ceiling price based upon prevailing prices for the same products during the period between April 1 and June 24, 1950, or upon any previous calendar quarter which ended not later than Sept. 30, 1949.

CONGRESS GETS THREE BILLS TO BENEFIT DENTAL CHIEFS

Three bills affecting chiefs of federal dental services were before Congress last week. In the House, Rep. Rivers (D., S.C.) introduced a measure (H.R. 4205) that would place the chief of the Navy Dental Corps on a par with other bureau chiefs in the Navy in terms of retirement benefits. He would receive the pay and allowances of a major general in the Army. Rep. Crosser (D., Ohio) was sponsor of a bill (H.R. 3976) designed to give the chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service parity with the head of the Army Dental Corps. A similar bill (S. 1320) was presented to the Senate by Sen. Murray (D., Mont.).

DENTAL PRODUCT FIRMS NAMED IN ANTI-TRUST SUIT

A charge of conspiracy to monopolize the manufacture and sale of alginate dental impression powder was made last week in a civil anti-trust suit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice. The suit, entered at the Federal District Court in Wilmington, Del., named as defendants the L. D. Caulk Co., of Milford, Del.; the Coe Laboratories, Inc., of Chicago; the Dental Perfection Co., of Glendale, Cal., and Mr. Stanley E. Noyes, president of the Dental Perfection Co. The product, a hydrocolloid type of material, has been widely used in making impressions for artificial dentures. In another federal action, the Federal Trade Commission approved a stipulation under which Plasti-Liner Co., Inc., of Buffalo, agrees to cease claiming that Brimm's Plasti-Liner will accomplish permanent results as a reliner in refitting or tightening of artificial dentures or will assure perfect-fitting dentures. The F.T.C. pointed out that its action was taken in accordance with a policy "of encouraging law observance through cooperation in certain types of cases where there has been no intent to defraud or mislead."

27 SOCIETIES TOP QUOTAS AS RELIEF FUND REACHES \$90,711

Four new states topped their quotas in the 1950-51 A.D.A. Relief Fund campaign as total contributions reached \$90,711.65 on May 29. The addition of the four new states, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi and New Jersey, brought the total of societies which have over-subscribed their quotas to 27, a record high. As the drive entered the final month, Southern California dentists continued to lead the nation with 213 per cent (\$9,413.75) of their quota contributed. Other state societies over the 100 per cent mark are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, the Panama Canal Zone, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS URGED BY INTER-ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Development of representative community health councils was advocated in a statement made public last week following a meeting of the Inter-Association Committee on Health in Washington, D.C. The recommendation, long advocated by the A.D.A., urged teamwork among professional health groups and lay groups in joint evaluation of health needs and planning and coordination of health services. "The maintenance and promotion of the health of all members of a community cannot be an isolated activity," the report said. "Planning for health is a part of--and should be integrated with--planning for economic and social well-being." The committee recommended that welfare departments purchase medical and dental care for patients instead of giving them aid in the form of cash payments as is required under the Social Security Act. In another action, the committee recommended that dental health services be included in any well-rounded local public health service program. "The principle of national health protection though tax-supported public health services within the jurisdiction of units of local civil government is approved," the committee reported. The committee is composed of six organizations, the A.D.A., the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Nurses' Association, American Public Health Association and American Public Welfare Association.

COUNCIL ON DENTAL EDUCATION TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON HYGIENIST TRAINING

The A.D.A. Council on Dental Education will hold a three-day conference for directors of dental hygienist education June 18-20 in the Central Office, it is announced by Dr. Shailer Peterson, Council secretary. Topics of the conference, which is part of the Council's counseling and accreditation program, will include curriculum, admission requirements and methods of teaching clinical and basic science subjects. Twenty-six schools now train dental hygienists. Members of the Council's committee on training of dental hygienists are Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, of St. Louis, dean of the Washington University School of Dentistry, chairman; Dr. Philip E. Blackerby Jr., of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Mich., and Miss Margaret A. Bailey, of Temple University School of Oral Hygiene, Philadelphia.

A.M.A. REPORTS RECORD HIGH OF 209,040 PHYSICIANS IN UNITED STATES

The American Medical Association reported this week that there was an all-time high record of 209,040 physicians in the United States as of Dec. 15, 1950. Basing its figures on the annual medical licensure report, the A.M.A. said there were 6,002 additions to the medical profession last year and 3,794 deaths, making a net gain of 2,208 in physician population.

\$750,000 IN NOTES HANDLED THROUGH LOS ANGELES POSTPAYMENT PLAN

The Los Angeles County Dental Society's postpayment plan, operated in conjunction with the Bank of America, has handled nearly three quarters of a million dollars in transactions since it was started last November, according to Dr. Joseph J. Engholm, of Pasadena, the society's president. Patients desiring to use the plan are not required to have co-signers and there is no recourse to the dentist. Borrowers are covered by mortality insurance. The interest rate is six per cent per annum with a maximum time for payment limited to 18 months. In addition to an original enrollment fee of \$10, dentists discount the notes 5 per cent for a reserve account to cover uncollectible bills. At present, notes are being processed at a rate of about \$125,000 per month. The average note is approximately \$177.

NORTHWESTERN DENTAL SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SET FOR JUNE 4-8

Northwestern University Dental School will sponsor a five-day scientific program June 4-8 in connection with the university's centennial celebration. Included in the program, entitled "A Century of Progress in Dentistry," will be eight post-graduate courses, the presentation of 23 scientific papers and four academic conferences on "Problems of an Aging Population." Dr. J. Ben Robinson, of Baltimore, dean of the University of Maryland Dental School, will be the keynote speaker. Essayists will include three dental school deans, Dr. Allan G. Brodie, of the University of Illinois; Dr. Roy G. Ellis, of the University of Toronto, and Dr. Maynard K. Hine, of the University of Indiana. Dr. Leonard Scheele, surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, will address the academic conference June 8.

25 STATE SECRETARIES TO ATTEND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Seven secretaries and executive secretaries of constituent dental societies will lead discussions at the Fourth State Secretaries' Management Conference to be held June 11-13 at the A.D.A. Central Office. Indications are that 25 state dental societies will be represented at the three-day meeting. Among state secretaries who will serve as discussion leaders are Dr. Earle S. Arnold, of West Hartford, Conn.; Dr. F. A. Pierson, of Lincoln, Neb.; Mr. John G. Rooks, of San Francisco; Dr. Don M. Hamm, of Clarksville, Ark.; Dr. Charles A. Wilkie, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mr. H. Leon Snow, of Oklahoma City, and Mr. T. T. McLean, of Nashville, Tenn. Other speakers will include A.D.A. staff members as well as Dr. Harold W. Oppice, of Chicago, Association president; Dr. Leo W. Kremer, of Chicago, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Relief, and Mrs. Vera A. Avery, formerly of the University of Chicago School of Business Administration.

PENNSYLVANIA AWARDED CONTRACT FOR ATOMIC DENTAL RESEARCH

Investigation of oral pathology resulting from exposure to radioactive materials will be undertaken by the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry in cooperation with the Naval Medical Research Institute. A \$35,000 contract for the study was awarded to the school by the Office of Naval Research. The school will also conduct a special course to train oral histologic technicians. Reports on the effects of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic explosions indicated that bleeding of gums was one of the first clinical manifestations in victims of the blasts.

DR. ENNIS TO ADDRESS 70TH ANNUAL DENTAL TRADE MEETING

Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. president-elect, will be one of the principal speakers at the 70th annual meeting of the American Dental Trade Association to be held June 18-21 in Hot Springs, Va. Theme of the four-day meeting will be "Management Decisions Reflect Profit or Loss." Other speakers will include Maj. Gen. Walter D. Love, of Washington, D.C., chief of the Army Dental Corps, and Dr. A. V. Purinton, of Philadelphia.

19 TO 1 ODDS AGAINST WAR IN INSURANCE FOR PACIFIC DENTAL MEETING

The Eighth Pacific Coast Dental Conference, scheduled for Seattle, Wash., June 25-28, has taken out insurance on the conference. Lloyds of London has set 19 to one odds against big enough war developments to stop the meeting. Dr. Frank E. Wood, of Seattle, conference president, said the organization was paying \$535 on a \$10,000 policy to cover advance costs and commitments for the convention. The conference represents 8,000 members in 11 component societies. Among the speakers will be Dr. Harold W. Oppice, of Chicago, A.D.A. president, and Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, president-elect.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dedication ceremonies were held recently for the \$1,500,000 Thomas P. Hinman Research Building at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The three-story research laboratory was named in honor of the late Dr. Hinman who was president of the A.D.A. in 1915-16, and who last year was chosen dentist of the half-century from Georgia....The Dental Health Council, of Fresno, Cal., recently benefited from two performances of "The Follies of 1951," sponsored by the city's Service League, Inc. "The pilot program carried out in three schools has proved the merit of the program," the city's school superintendent, Edward C. Kratt, said. "We sincerely hope the Dental Health Council can expand its program next year to include all elementary schools. It has been proved that education is the answer to the alarming incidence of tooth decay and the council's stress has been on teaching children good dental habits."....Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele of the U.S. Public Health Service was elected president of the World Health Organization at the Fourth World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland.... In Montana, the school dental health program, which includes a system of referral cards, has expanded to include 927 schools in 51 counties. In 1946-47, it embraced only 103 schools in 16 counties....The Dental Manufacturers of America will hold its annual meeting June 15-17 at Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa.