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American Dental Association

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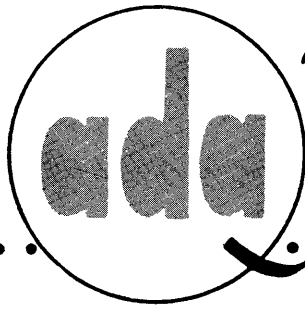
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# News Letter

Vol. 5, No. 5 - March 1, 1952

## A.D.A. SPOKESMAN REFUTES ATTACK ON FLUORIDATION IN HOUSE HEARING -- COUNSEL FOR COMMITTEE IS PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED FOR HOSTILE ATTITUDE

Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.--American Dental Association testimony on the safety of fluoridation of public water supplies brought a sharp about-face from a congressional committee Thursday. Dr. J. Roy Doty, of Chicago, secretary of the Association's Council on Dental Therapeutics, told a special House committee investigating possible harmful effects of the addition of chemicals to food and drink that "there is more scientific evidence available to substantiate the safety of adding controlled amounts of fluorides to water than there is for the addition of any chemical to a food or food product." Dr. Doty's testimony climaxed a day-long hearing marked by hostile questioning of U. S. Public Health Service witnesses by Vincent Kleinfeld, committee counsel, and Rep. Miller (R., Neb.), who has been conducting a one-man crusade to halt fluoridation in the District of Columbia, scheduled to start in May. For two weeks the seven-man committee had been hearing mainly opponents of the procedure. Dr. Doty, in his testimony, emphasized that the Association's approval of the measure "is founded upon a mass of scientific data evidencing fluoridation's safety to human beings as well as its dental benefits." The outburst came as Kleinfeld pursued a vigorous line of belligerent questioning directed to Dr. Doty. Rep. Jones (D., Mo.) broke in. "Your line of questioning is grossly unfair," he shouted at Kleinfeld. "Are we trying to prosecute these people because they have given us their findings?" Then Rep. Horan (R., Wash.) joined in. "This whole thing has moved out of the field of health into the field of politics," he said. "That is not what we are here for. We must be able to get the facts and weigh them." Kleinfeld, who has served the committee through its 18 months' existence, offered to resign. "If it is the view of the committee that my line of questioning is unfair," he said, "I would like to offer to withdraw from the committee." At that point, Rep. Hedwick (D., W. Va.), acting in the absence of Chairman Delaney (D., N. Y.), adjourned the hearing.

### REP. MILLER TRIES TO BLOCK PRO-FLUORIDATION TESTIMONY

the U. S. Public Health Service. Dr. Forsyth was relating figures indicating the harmlessness of fluoride in relation to disease. "That is silly, useless information to put in the record," Rep. Miller said. Dr. Forsyth cited references "conclusively demonstrating that the physiological effects of natural and artificially fluoridated water are identical." That fluoridation would reduce dental caries without causing any observable fluorosis was emphasized by Dr. H. Trendley Dean, director of the National Institute for Dental Research. Favorable testimony was also offered by Dr. Francis A. Arnold Jr. and Dr. Isadore Zipkin, of the National Institute of Dental Research, and Dr. H. B. Andervont, of the National Cancer Institute.

Earlier, the tone of the session was set when Rep. Miller interrupted a statement by Dr. Bruce Forsyth, chief dental officer of

### FLUORIDATION SAFETY PROVED, DR. DOTY TELLS CONGRESSMEN

mony before the committee. Dr. Doty cited the results of a number of documented studies indicating the safety of the procedure. He made these points: 1. Fluorides are in no way related to bone fractures or height or weight of individuals. Any possible relation was found to be

The safety of fluoridation of community water supplies has been proved beyond any reasonable doubt, Dr. Doty said in his testi-

non-existent. 2. Fluorides do not accumulate in the body. A number of studies show that fluoride is eliminated almost as rapidly as it is ingested. 3. Fluoride at recommended levels has no effect upon the kidneys. Surveys of kidney ailments in fluoride and fluoride-free areas failed to disclose any evidence of fluoride as a factor in disease. "The surveys and reports cited constitute only a part of the considerable scientific evidence attesting to the safety of the recommended fluoridation procedure," Dr. Doty said. He added that studies on fluorides date back 40 years.

#### FLUORIDATION NOW IN USE IN MORE THAN 200 CITIES

At present, Dr. Doty said, more than 200 U. S. cities and towns are fluoridating their water supplies and several hundred others have approved the procedure and are now installing necessary equipment to put it in operation. He added: "Dental scientists safely anticipate a reduction of 60 to 65 per cent in the number of cavities ordinarily expected in a given age group if that group has been drinking fluoridated water during the dental formative years...Every year that the fluoridation procedure is delayed leads unnecessarily to the denial of dental benefits to vast numbers of American children." Earlier the committee, heard a number of witnesses who were opposed to fluoridation. Dr. Robert S. Harris, nutritional biochemist at M.I.T., contended that indorsement of fluoridation by the A.D.A. and the American Medical Association had been premature. Dr. V. O. Hurme, of Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children at Boston, questioned the validity of statistics showing the effectiveness of fluoridation in preventing tooth decay and warned that organic damage might result. Also among earlier witnesses was Dr. J. Roy Blayney, director of Zoller Memorial Clinic, University of Chicago. Dr. Blayney said that he was convinced that fluorides in a ratio of one part per million in water would have no long range harmful effects. He urged, however, that investigations of possible toxicity be continued. The committee is scheduled to wind up its hearings on fluoridation next week with testimony from representatives of the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, National Research Council and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

#### BRITISH MISSION BEGINS STUDY OF FLUORIDATION IN U. S.

A four-member mission of the British government is now conducting a-month long study of fluoridation of domestic water supplies in the United States. Members of the mission, headed by Dr. H. H. Stones, of Liverpool, were guests at a luncheon sponsored by the A.D.A. in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 28. Speakers included Mr. Haydon Raynor of the U. S. State Department and chiefs of the five U. S. dental services. Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant A.D.A. secretary, presided. Other A.D.A. officials at the meeting were Dr. R. H. Friedrich, chairman of the Council on Federal Dental Services, and Dr. David Fitzgibbon and Brig. Gen. Oscar P. Snyder, vice presidents.

#### ARMED FORCES TO INDUCT 175 ADDITIONAL DENTISTS DURING MAY

An additional 175 dentists will be inducted during the month of May according to an announcement by Selective Service. The new call is in addition to the 335 dentists to be inducted during April. Of the 175 dentists to be called up in May, 60 will be assigned to the Army, 90 to the Navy, and 25 to the Air Force. The April call-up includes 85 dentists for the Army, 200 for the Navy and 50 for the Air Force. All of the dentists to be inducted are Priority I registrants under the special draft act for dentists and physicians, i.e., those who received part of their professional education at government expense or who were deferred to attend dental school during World War II and who since have served less than 90 days of active duty with the armed forces. Dentists covered in the two induction orders will be given an opportunity to volunteer for reserve commissions up until the time of their actual induction into the armed forces. Those failing to volunteer will be inducted as privates, it was said. As of Feb. 15, there were a total of 629 Priority I dentists in the nation (see A.D.A. News Letter, Feb. 15, 1952). The new orders for 510 dental officers will virtually exhaust the remaining pool of Priority I dentists, Selective Service officials said.

A.D.A. RELIEF FUND CAMPAIGN NEARS 90 PER CENT MARK --  
18 SOCIETIES TOP QUOTAS AS CONTRIBUTIONS REACH \$86,949

The 1951-52 Relief Fund campaign neared the 90 per cent mark on February 26 as total contributions reached \$86,949.13. A little more than \$13,000 is needed to reach the \$100,000 goal. Three more constituent societies--Delaware, District of Columbia and Georgia--and dentists in the Air Force passed the 100 per cent mark in February. Previously, 15 societies had oversubscribed their quotas. Alabama, which has more than doubled its quota (216 per cent) continued to lead the entire nation. Alaska, with 200 per cent, and Southern California, with 189 per cent, were close behind. Additional societies which have exceeded their quotas include Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and Wyoming. Contributions by constituent societies follow:

	TO FEB. 26			TO FEB 26			
	1951-52 QUOTAS	CONTRI- BUTIONS	PCT		1951-52 QUOTAS	CONTRI- BUTIONS	PCT
Air Force	\$ 460.00	\$ 472.75	102.7	Navy	850.00	420.50	49.5
Alabama	740.00	1599.00	216.1	Nebraska	1100.00	1121.68	102.0
Alaska	40.00	80.00	200.0	Nevada	90.00	74.50	82.8
Arizona	260.00	128.00	49.2	New Hampshire	300.00	297.00	99.0
Arkansas	480.00	469.50	97.8	New Jersey	4110.00	3812.50	92.8
Army	480.00	356.50	74.3	New Mexico	200.00	202.50	101.3
California	3540.00	3171.00	89.6	New York	15620.00	9111.00	58.3
California, So.	4340.00	8239.00	189.8	No. Carolina	1250.00	1079.00	86.3
Colorado	940.00	772.50	82.2	North Dakota	330.00	499.00	151.2
Connecticut	1910.00	1709.50	89.5	Ohio	4940.00	4069.90	82.4
Delaware	150.00	150.00	100.0	Oklahoma	880.00	1154.00	131.1
Dist. of Col.	840.00	1300.50	154.8	Oregon	1170.00	1266.50	108.2
Florida	1180.00	1155.50	97.9	Panama C.Z.	20.00	7.00	35.0
Georgia	1020.00	1035.09	101.5	Pennsylvania	7190.00	5125.08	71.3
Hawaii	350.00	380.00	108.6	P.H. Service	240.00	133.50	55.6
Idaho	260.00	259.00	99.6	Puerto Rico	280.00	85.00	30.4
Illinois	7750.00	6802.00	87.8	Rhode Island	550.00	473.00	86.0
Indiana	2280.00	2347.50	103.0	So. Carolina	430.00	253.50	59.0
Iowa	1900.00	1538.65	81.0	South Dakota	340.00	223.00	65.6
Kansas	1060.00	832.30	78.5	Tennessee	1110.00	1350.25	121.6
Kentucky	1060.00	856.00	80.8	Texas	3010.00	2013.60	66.9
Louisiana	1010.00	754.25	74.7	Utah	480.00	205.00	42.7
Maine	450.00	346.50	77.0	Vermont	190.00	123.00	64.7
Maryland	1010.00	1062.00	105.1	Vet. Admin.	990.00	377.00	38.1
Massachusetts	3780.00	3180.00	84.1	Virginia	1120.00	898.50	80.2
Michigan	3900.00	3205.65	82.2	Washington	1690.00	1898.50	112.3
Minnesota	2970.00	2623.33	88.3	West Virginia	770.00	686.00	89.1
Mississippi	530.00	401.60	75.8	Wisconsin	2990.00	2074.50	69.4
Montana	360.00	399.15	110.9	Wyoming	160.00	175.00	109.4
Missouri	2550.00	2085.85	81.8	Miscellaneous		27.00	
					\$100,000.00	\$86,949.13	86.9

## **EXPANSION OF FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM IS PROPOSED**

Expansion of the federal Social Security Act to extend old age and survivors insurance (OASI) provisions to an additional 11,000,000 persons and to liberalize monthly retirement benefits was proposed in a 77-page bill introduced in Congress last week by a group of eight Democratic senators and representatives. The bill proposes that OASI be extended to include farmers, farm workers, certain government employees and members of the armed forces, none of whom is now covered by OASI. The new bill, however, does not propose a revision of the present provision which excludes dentists, lawyers, physicians and certain other self-employed persons from OASI. The new bill also proposes that disability benefits be provided for workers and self-employed persons covered by the act. Sponsors of the bill are: Sens. Lehman of New York, Murray of Montana, Humphrey of Minnesota and Magnuson of Washington; and Reps. Dingell of Michigan, Jackson of Washington, Roosevelt of New York and Mitchell of Washington.

## **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL SCHOOLS TO MEET MARCH 23-26**

The 29th annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Schools will be held at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo., March 23-26. Dr. Ernest G. Sloman, of San Francisco, president of the Association and speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, will preside. Speakers at a special general session on Sunday (March 23) will include Col. Richard H. Eanes, of Washington, D. C., chief medical officer of Selective Service; Dr. Leo J. Schoeny, of New Orleans, and Dr. Paul C. Barton, of Worcester, Mass., members of the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the National Security Resources Board; Dr. James P. Hollers, of Albuquerque, N. M., member of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, and Dr. Walter J. Pelton, chief of the division of dental resources, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

## **A.D.A. HOUSING BUREAU IS OPENED FOR 1952 MEETING AT ST. LOUIS**

The A.D.A. Housing Bureau for the 93rd annual session of the Association at St. Louis from Sept. 8 to 11, was formally opened today (March 1). An official application form for hotel accommodations is included in the March issue of the A.D.A. Journal. All applications for hotel rooms must be submitted on the official form and mailed to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 911 Locust Street, room 406, St. Louis 1, Mo. Additional application forms may be obtained free of charge from the A.D.A. Central Office. Twenty-five St. Louis hotels have agreed to provide rooms for those attending the A.D.A. session.

## **MEETING OF DENTAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21-23**

The 30th annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research will be held March 21-23 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Nearly 100 dental scientists from all parts of the nation will present papers at the three-day meeting which will be held in the Broadmoor Hotel. Dr. Leonard Fosdick, of Northwestern University, Chicago, is president of the association, and Dr. Edward H. Hatton, also of Northwestern, is secretary.

## **DR. SCHOONOVER IS PROMOTED AT U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS**

Dr. Irl C. Schoonover, since 1945 chief of the dental materials section of the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., has been appointed assistant chief of the organic and fibrous materials division at the bureau. An honorary member of the A.D.A., Dr. Schoonover has become internationally known for his work in the dental materials research program which is conducted in cooperation with the A.D.A., the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration.

## **A.D.A. TRUSTEES TO CONVENE MARCH 27 FOR FIRST 1952 MEETING**

The first 1952 meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 27-28 at the Central Office. Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. president, will preside.

## DENTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH OF 12,169

The total number of undergraduate dental students increased from 7,720 in 1940 to an all-time high of 12,169 in 1951-52, a rise of 57.6 per cent, according to the Dental Students' Register -- 1951-52, published this week by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. Student enrollment in 1950-51 was 11,891. The Register also indicated an increase in the average number of students per school. In 1951, the average enrollment was 290 students per school, a 46.5 per cent increase over the corresponding figure (198) for 1940. The total number of dental students included 82 women in 1951. The number of dental hygiene students continued to increase, the report showed, reaching 1,598 in 1951, a rise of 144 over the previous year. The total number of dental students included 3,260 freshmen, 3,086 sophomores, 2,922 juniors and 2,901 seniors. Copies of the report may be obtained free of charge from the Council on Dental Education.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOCIETY TO HOLD 20TH ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE CLINIC

Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. president, will be one of the speakers at the 20th annual Postgraduate Clinic of the District of Columbia Dental Society to be held March 9-12 at the Shoreham Hotel. One of the highlights of the four-day meeting will be a topic discussion on focal infection. There will be four two-hour clinics covering various phases of oral dynamics and six individual two-hour clinics. In addition, there will be six social events, including the president's reception and a style show. Dr. John O'Keefe is president of the society.

## ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR 40TH ANNUAL THOMAS P. HINMAN CLINIC

Seven essays and clinics will be presented at the 40th annual Thomas P. Hinman Mid-Winter Clinic in Atlanta, Ga., March 23-26. The four-day clinic, which is sponsored by the Fifth District Dental Society of Georgia, will also include a film program and commercial and scientific exhibits. Dr. R. D. Robinson, of Atlanta, is general chairman of the meeting.

## DR. GERALD G. BURNS, FORMER A.D.A. VICE-PRESIDENT, DIES

Dr. Gerald G. Burns, of Rochester, N. Y., A.D.A. third vice-president in 1950, died Feb. 16. He was 78 years old. For a quarter of a century Dr. Burns had served as an executive council member of the Dental Society of the State of New York and was a past-president of the society. He was a life member of the A.D.A.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Harry Strusser, director of the bureau of dentistry of the New York City Department of Health, leaves today (March 1) for a two-week trip to Dutch Guiana to assist the local dental society in setting up a dental health program for the country's 210 thousand residents....An index covering issues of The A.D.A. Journal for the last six months of 1951 is available free upon request to the A.D.A. Order Department. The index is for Volume 53 of The Journal.... Dr. W. Philip Phair, of Chicago, assistant secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, will participate in a panel discussion on industrial dentistry at the annual meeting of the American Association of Industrial Dentists, to be held April 22-24 at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio....Veterans Administration figures for December, 1951 show that private dentists completed 27,111 treatment cases and 16,023 examinations on a fee basis totalling \$2,637,142 and \$218,172, respectively....The National Health Council, made up of 39 national health agencies and professional societies, including the A.D.A., will meet March 13-14 at New York City....Tuition at the School of Dental and Oral Surgery of Columbia University, New York, will go from \$750 to \$850 in the fall as part of a blanket increase for all the university's schools and departments....The newly issued Canadian Dental Students' Register indicates that 755 students are now enrolled in the country's five dental schools as compared with 883 last year....Dr. H. T. Roper-Hall has been named president of the British Dental Association to succeed the late Dr. E. B. Dowsett.