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News Letter

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A.D.A. SPOKESMAN URGES REVISION OF FEDERAL TAX LAWS TO PERMIT DENTISTS AND OTHERS TO ESTABLISH VOLUNTARY OLD AGE PENSION FUND

The A.D.A. Tuesday (May 13) urged Congress to approve a measure that would allow millions of self-employed persons to provide for their own old age by deferring payment of income taxes on earnings set aside for their own retirement or pension plan. In testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee, Dr. Paul E. Jones, of Farmville, N.C., member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, spoke in favor of the similar bills (H.R. 4371 and 4373) introduced by Rep. Keogh (D., N.Y.) and Rep. Reed (R., N.Y.). The measure would permit individuals to put aside part of their earned income, tax free, during their high earning years as a buffer against old age. The Reed-Keogh bills provide that persons could exclude from taxes each year 10 per cent of their net income up to \$7,500 to be paid into a restricted retirement fund for the participating members. At the age of 60, the participant could draw benefits either in a lump sum or in annual installments and would then pay taxes on the amount drawn.

CITES DISCRIMINATION OF PRESENT INCOME TAX LAWS

number of high earning years" and "who are peculiarly hard hit by the steeply graduated surtax structure of the federal income tax law." Referring to a chart showing average earnings of dentists, Dr. Jones noted that "the curve starts at slightly over \$3,000 annually at age 25, rises to nearly \$10,000 in the early 40's, and then diminishes steadily." He added that during his earning period, the dentist attempts to recoup the funds invested in his education, meet his ordinary living expenses and set aside funds to provide for his wife and children should he become disabled or die at an early age with the result that he has little left to finance his own retirement after he meets his income tax obligations. Dr. Jones pointed out that the advantage the dentist enjoys of independently managing his own practice "makes him susceptible to the inherent inequities in our tax laws." He said an employed person who has the same lifetime earnings as the average dentist will invariably pay less in taxes because he will have had a more uniform level of yearly income during his earning lifetime. He also pointed out that many employed persons are covered by private pension plans that operate with the same tax deferment provided in the Reed-Keogh bills. "The American Dental Association, in supporting H.R. 4371 and 4373, urges that Congress give to the private practitioner the same opportunity given the corporate employee to provide voluntarily for his own future," he said. Dr. Jones asserted that by means of the proposed plan "Congress will be able to remove some of the excessive burden of the surtax structure unintentionally imposed upon a particular group, the professionally self-employed." Among other groups that have endorsed the Reed-Keogh bills are the American Bar Association, American Medical Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Farm Bureau Federation and the Authors League of America. With Dr. Jones at the hearing was Mr. Bernard J. Conway, of Chicago, assistant secretary of the Council on Legislation.

Dr. Jones told the committee that the plan would be of particular advantage to members of the dental profession "who have a relatively limited

SEVEN PRIORITY I DENTISTS ARE INDUCTED AS ENLISTED MEN AFTER REFUSING TO VOLUNTEER FOR COMMISSIONS WITH THE ARMED FORCES

Seven dentists classified under Priority I of the special dentist-physician draft act were inducted in the armed forces as enlisted men earlier this month after they refused to volunteer for commissions as dental officers, it was reported today by Col. Richard H. Eanes, chief medical officer for Selective Service. Col. Eanes reported that induction as a private had been slated for an eighth dentist but that final information on his case was not yet available. Those who refused to accept commissions voluntarily were part of the 335 dentists in Priority I who were ordered to report for active duty during April. All of the others either voluntarily accepted commissions or were deferred for physical or other reasons, Col. Eanes said. Previously, only one dentist and three physicians had been inducted under the special draft act, it was reported. An additional 175 dentists have been ordered to volunteer for commissions or face involuntary induction as enlisted men during May. These are now being processed and no additional inductions have as yet been reported, Col. Eanes said. The April and May calls will virtually exhaust the remaining pool of Priority I dentists and soon calls are expected for Priority II men. (Priority I dentists are those who received part of their professional training at government expense or who were deferred during World War II and who have not had more than 90 days active service. Priority II covers those who received government aid or who were deferred but who have had more than 90 days and less than 21 months of active duty.) Theoretically, those inducted are still eligible to apply for commissions, but they will not be eligible for the \$100-a-month salary bonus paid to those who volunteer for commissions. Extension of the bonus payments, originally scheduled to terminate this fall, has been recommended by the Senate Armed Services Committee. The A.D.A. has strongly urged that the program be continued. Through error one of the newspapers covering the recent annual meeting of the Louisiana State Dental Society reported that the Louisiana society had urged that the bonus be discontinued. This report was incorrect. Louisiana dentists unanimously endorsed continuation of the bonus payments, it is reported by Dr. Julian S. Bernhard, secretary.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FLUORIDATION FOR FORT WORTH, TEX.

Fluoridation of public water supplies was approved last week for Fort Worth, Tex. The city council voted to adopt the measure for the state's fourth largest city with a population of nearly 300,000. Approval was attributed to leadership of local dentists and physicians. Eight other Texas communities have already placed the program in operation. In Kansas, nine additional communities have approved fluoridation. They are Arkansas City, Coffeyville, Colony, Ft. Scott, Garnett, Hays, Iola, Minneapolis and Seneca.

UMWA WELFARE FUND DISCONTINUES DENTAL SERVICES TO MINERS.

Effective today (May 15), the United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund will not authorize dental services to its beneficiaries, it was announced by Dr. Warren F. Draper, executive medical officer for the Fund. The announcement was contained in a letter sent by Dr. Draper to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary. Three weeks ago, Dr. Hillenbrand and other A.D.A. representatives met with top officials of the UMWA Welfare Fund in an effort to clarify the dental service program for miners and their dependents which had been authorized by the Fund. The conference had been requested by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees (see A.D.A. News Letter, May 1, 1952) as a result of a number of complaints from constituent and component dental society officers about the quality of service that could be rendered under the UMWA program. In his letter, Dr. Draper said that "in lieu of direct payments to dentists for services rendered, the Fund will collaborate to the fullest possible extent with the Public Health Service, the Children's Bureau, and the state and local health departments in developing and extending their activities for the betterment of dental health, especially among the people in coal mining areas who have long been deprived of the dental care they so desperately need." Earlier, Dr. Draper was quoted in the Washington Report on the Medical Sciences as reporting that budgetary limitations would prevent the Fund from providing other than a slight amount of dental services for its beneficiaries.

DENTAL EDITORS TO DISCUSS IMPROVED JOURNALS AT CONFERENCE JUNE 23-24

Practical suggestions for the improvement of dental journals will be made at a two-day conference sponsored jointly by the A.D.A. Council on Journalism and the American Association of Dental Editors on June 23-24 at the A.D.A. Central Office. One entire morning will be devoted to a discussion on modernizing a dental journal by Mr. Kenneth A. Butler, president of the Wayside Press, Mendota, Ill. Other speakers will be Dr. Dorothea F. Radusch, of Minneapolis, the dental editors' president; Dr. Charles A. Wilkie, of Brooklyn, chairman of the Council on Journalism; Dr. William F. Schoen, of Chicago, editor of the Illinois Dental Journal; Dr. William L. Barnum, of Portland, Ore., former editor of the Journal of the Oregon State Dental Association; Dr. George B. Denton, chief manuscript editor of the A.D.A.; Mr. George Likeness, of Mendota, Ill., executive director of the Butler Typo-Design Research Center; Mr. John J. Hollister, of Chicago, A.D.A. business manager; Mr. Alfred J. Jackson, of Chicago, director of state journal advertising, American Medical Association, and Mr. J. J. Nevin, of Chicago, vice-president, Coe Laboratories. The conference has been arranged by Dr. Lon W. Morrey, of Chicago, editor of The Journal of the American Dental Association.

2ND DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK TO DEDICATE OWN BUILDING MAY 23

The new headquarters building of the Second District Dental Society of the State of New York -- believed to be the first society in the United States to construct its own headquarters offices -- will be dedicated at special ceremonies May 23 in Brooklyn. The principal speaker will be Dr. C. Raymond Wells, of Brooklyn, past president of the American Dental Association. The one and one-half story brick and stone structure, located at 111 Ft. Greene Pl., was built at a cost of \$100,000 obtained by membership local subscriptions and assessments. It contains 5,000 square feet of floor space devoted to an auditorium, an all-purpose classroom, a dental laboratory, a fully-equipped model dental office and offices for administrative personnel. Taking part in the dedication program, in addition to Dr. Wells, will be Borough President John Cashmore; Trustee Percy T. Phillips, representing the A.D.A.; Dr. Alex N. Lifschutz, president of the host society; Dr. Max E. Michaelson, president of the First District Dental Society; Dr. Herbert L. Taub, president of the 10th District Dental Society; Dr. Willard S. Bell, president of the Dental Society of the State of New York; Dr. Charles Loughran, president of the Kings County Medical Society; Dr. Harry Strusser, director of the Bureau of Dentistry of the New York City Department of Health; Dr. Claus F. Hinck Jr., acting dean of the New York University College of Dentistry, and Dr. Robert L. Heinze, chairman of the building committee. The society's membership includes approximately 2,500 dentists in Kings and Richmond counties. Chairman of the dedication program is Dr. Joseph Schure.

NUMBER OF CANADIAN DENTISTS REACHES RECORD TOTAL OF 5,071

Canada now has 5,071 practicing dentists, the highest total in the country's history, the Canadian Dental Association has announced. The present total represents an increase of 886 dentists since 1938, the report showed. However, the Association revealed, the increase in dental personnel has not kept pace with the growth in population. In 1938, there was one dentist for each 2,665 persons, while in 1951, the ratio was one dentist for each 2,750 persons. (The ratio in the United States is one dentist for each 1,900 persons.)

BILL HOWARD NAMED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OKLAHOMA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bill Howard, of Oklahoma City, has been named executive secretary of the Oklahoma State Dental Association. He succeeds Mr. H. Leon Snow who has become executive secretary of the Michigan State Dental Association (see A.D.A. News Letter, May 1, 1952). Mr. Howard was formerly public relations director of Oklahoma City University and earlier served as executive vice-president and secretary of the Oklahoma City Junior Chamber of Commerce. He saw service in World War II as a medical technician with the Third Army in the European theater. Mr. Howard is a graduate of Oklahoma City University.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES 71,248, GAIN OF 3,215 OVER LAST YEAR

Total membership in the A.D.A. reached an all-time high for the end of April with 71,248 individuals listed as members. The April 30 total was 3,215 higher than the corresponding figure for the end of April last year. The number of fully privileged members (active and life) at the end of April was 61,716, an increase of 2,506 over the corresponding date of 1951. Membership in other categories was: student, 9,323 (up 708); affiliate, 195 (down 4); associate, 6 (up 3), and honorary, 8 (up 2). In the category of student membership, a newly-completed survey by the A.D.A. Council on Membership indicates that 26 of the Association's 54 constituent societies have reduced dues for 1951 graduates. The survey also revealed that 37 societies charge no dues for members in the armed forces. Annual dues of state societies this year range from \$2 to \$42, the study showed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS APPROVES NEW REDUCTIONS IN "FREE" HEALTH PROGRAM

The House of Commons, by a narrow margin, gave final approval last week to a bill further reducing benefits under the once "free" government-administered British health program. The vote was 284 to 266. The measure, which had posed a serious threat to Prime Minister Churchill's government, was the first major piece of legislation to be put through the House of Commons since the Conservatives came to power last fall. In dentistry, the principal new charge to be imposed is up to \$2.80 for treatment. Earlier, a cabinet upheaval resulted when token charges were imposed for artificial dentures. Meanwhile, in an unexpected reshuffling of his cabinet, Prime Minister Churchill appointed Scotsman Iain MacLeod as new health minister. MacLeod has been noteworthy for his ability to deal in debate with Laborite Aneurin Bevan, chief defender of the health program which he himself inaugurated in 1948.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY TO COMBINE ANNUAL MEETING WITH CRUISE TO BERMUDA

The annual meeting of the Northern Virginia Dental Society will be held this year aboard the ship Queen of Bermuda on a unique convention cruise to Bermuda from May 29 to June 4. Business and scientific meetings will be conducted on board while the ship is en route. Special sightseeing tours have been arranged for the ship's two-day layover in Bermuda. Dr. T. W. Pumphrey, of Arlington, is secretary and Drs. P. R. Milton and H. W. Bonifer, also of Arlington, are co-chairmen of the program committee.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Under the auspices of the Tennessee State Dental Association and the Tennessee State Health Department, postgraduate dental seminars on dental materials and root canal therapy will be presented in eight cities of the state between June 16 and July 11. The instructors are Dr. Eugene Skinner, of Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, and Dr. F. D. Ostrander, of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor....The American Board of Oral Surgery will hold certification examinations Oct. 5-8 at the Jung Hotel, New Orleans. The secretary is Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, 718 Roshek Bldg., Dubuque, Ia.....Rear Adm. Alfred W. Chandler, inspector general of the Navy Dental Corps and former A.D.A. second vice-president, is scheduled for retirement June 30....The dates for the sixth annual meeting of the American Academy of Dental Medicine are May 29-31 at the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal. Dr. William M. Greenhut, of New York City, is the secretary....Handy and Harman have sold their Dee line of dental equipment to the Kerr Manufacturing Co. of Detroit....Brig. Gen. Oscar P. Snyder, of Washington, D. C., third vice-president of the A.D.A., has been appointed chairman of a newly-formed faculty board for the dental division at Walter Reed Army Medical Center....The newly-organized National Association of Dental Laboratories has opened offices at 1346 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. The executive secretary is Mr. Paul A. Slone....The A.D.A. Council on Dental Education will meet today and tomorrow (May 15-16) at the Central Office with Dr. Eugene R. Westcott, of Atlantic City, presiding.