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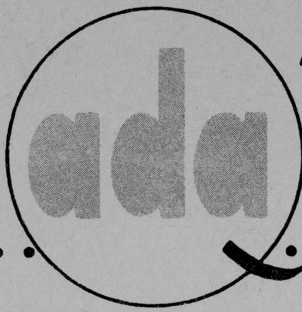
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# News Letter

Vol. 5, No. 25 - Nov. 18, 1952

## NAVY SURGEON GENERAL ATTACKS DENTAL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS -- A.D.A. OFFICIAL CALLS ADMIRAL PUGH SPEECH "CONFESSION OF FAILURE"

Chicago, Nov. 18. -- Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, secretary of the American Dental Association, today described a violent attack on the medical and dental professions made by Rear Admiral Lamont Pugh, surgeon general of the navy, as a "confession of failure on the part of the military concerned with the health of those who are fighting for their country."

In a talk Monday before the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States at Washington, D. C., Admiral Pugh charged that "easier, quicker and bigger money" keeps many physicians and dentists from entering military service.

In commenting on the bitterly-worded speech of Admiral Pugh, Dr. Hillenbrand said:

"Admiral Pugh's statement about dentists not volunteering for reasons of avarice is not only incorrect but unworthy of the service to which members of the dental profession have contributed so much. Admiral Pugh follows the usual military pattern of blaming everyone but the military for mistakes in the handling of military problems."

In his talk, Admiral Pugh heaped scorn on what he termed an argument that military service should be made "more attractive" to medical men. He said no one was making service life attractive for "the soldiers and marines who are fighting and bleeding and dying in the heat and dust on barren Korean hillsides."

The Admiral continued: "Since when has the doctor of medicine and dentistry become such a pantywaist as to require that bald responsibility others accept with good grace must be decked out with surgeon frills before he will buy it?"

Admiral Pugh said there was only one important difference between service as a civilian or military doctor.

"We all know it is simply a matter of easier, quicker and bigger money -- avarice; a better, if albeit, a fanciful and possibly ephemeral opportunity to get rich quick," he said.

In reply, Dr. Hillenbrand pointed out that members of the dental profession had and were continuing to meet all the real needs of personnel of the armed forces, and described Admiral Pugh's speech as a "disservice to the men and women who are engaged in actual fighting."

Dr. Hillenbrand urged that the Congress investigate the charges made by the navy surgeon general.

Spokesmen for the American Medical Association also challenged the statements of Admiral Pugh.

The full text of Dr. Hillenbrand's statement regarding Admiral Pugh's speech follows:

Admiral Pugh's statement about dentists not volunteering for reasons of avarice is not only incorrect but unworthy of the service to which members of the dental profession have contributed so much. Admiral Pugh follows the usual military pattern of blaming everyone but the military for mistakes in the handling of military problems.

Dentists, in World War I, in World War II and in the Korean emergency, have met the full call of their country and the real needs of those who are serving their country as fighting men. Dentists have not been willing, however, after the profligate waste of health personnel manpower which characterized military health services during World War II, to meet every whim dreamed up by a military administrator to increase the size of his work force, often at needless expense of the civilians who also contribute to the fighting force.

Two years ago the military asked for a compulsory draft act for dentists and physicians to meet an emergency. Today, two years later, the military are again asking for renewal of this act. In the intervening two years, the military has demonstrated its incompetence in arriving at the solution of a problem which is critical to the health and welfare of all of the nation.

The health professions and all citizens have a right to ask whether incompetent planning on the part of the military justifies charges against the health professions. Admiral Pugh has done a distinct disservice to all men and women who are engaged in actual fighting.

Congress should be asked at once to inquire into the circumstances which surround this confession of failure on the part of the military concerned with the health of those who are fighting for their country.