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## ADA News Letter - 05/01/1953

American Dental Association

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# ada News Letter

Vol. 6, No. 9 - May 1, 1953

## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE COMPLETES HEARINGS ON EXTENSION OF PHYSICIAN-DENTIST DRAFT BILL; REPORT TO HOUSE IS EXPECTED SHORTLY

Passage by Congress of a new dentist-physician draft act to replace Public Law 779 which expires June 30 moved a step closer last week with the completion of public hearings on the measure by the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives. All witnesses, including representatives of the American Dental Association, American Medical Association and veterans groups, agreed that an extension of the present law was necessary to provide health manpower for the armed forces. Several witnesses, however, urged that the extension of the draft act be for only one instead of two years. Witnesses generally agreed with a proposal of the A.D.A. that the new law should specify that all military service including terminal and accrued leave with the exception of V-12 and ASTP training should be counted in determining the prior military service of a prospective draftee under the act. Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., a member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, presented several other amendments (see A.D.A. News Letter, Mar. 4, 1953) which the A.D.A. proposed to permit a more orderly recruitment of dental officers than has been possible under the present law. Dr. Earnest also re-endorsed on behalf of the A.D.A. the provisions of the proposed bill which would make all non-veteran dentists subject to call to active duty before veterans now in Priority IV could be recalled. The House committee is expected to complete work on the new draft bill and submit it to the full House within the next few weeks. One point being considered by committee members was whether Priority III men (non-veterans up to age 51) should be called with the older men first or the younger men first. Under the present law, younger men are being called first.

### PENTAGON SAYS 4,552 DENTISTS FACE DRAFT IN NEXT 2 YEARS

from July 1. Gen. Armstrong said that the armed forces would require 7,707 physicians and 4,552 dentists during the next two years. This was a reduction of about 700 in the number of dental officers which the Defense Department had said it would need in the next two years. The estimate for medical officers was also below previous estimates.

Army Surgeon General George E. Armstrong, testifying for the Department of Defense, urged that the draft law be extended for two years

### DENTAL VETERANS ASK EXEMPTION FOR MEN WITH 21 MONTHS SERVICE

IV dentists who have served 21 months or more be exempted from recall to active duty except in the event of a national emergency. They also urged that older men be taken first among non-veterans. Dr. Edwin S. Hamilton, of Kankakee, Ill., representative of the A.M.A., also urged that Priority IV men be freed of further military duty except in a new emergency.

Spokesmen for the National Dental Veterans, Drs. C. W. Gilman and Charles H. Graves, both of Southern California, urged that all Priority

### DENTISTS THROUGH AGE 41 NOW BEING CALLED TO DUTY

duty under Public Law 779. Prior to last March, the age limit for the induction of Priority III dentists was 35. This limit was raised to age 40 in March and now has been raised to include men 41 years of age. Selective Service regulations provide that younger men must be called first in Priority III.

Under new instructions issued last month by Selective Service, Priority III dentists through age 41 are now being called for active military

## TWO NEW STUDIES CONFIRM SAFETY OF FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Further evidence of the safety of fluoridation of public water supplies was made known last week as the number of communities placing the program in operation reached 730. Three research scientists at the University of Rochester in New York made a study of fluorides and bone structure and showed that drinking water containing the optimum of one part per million fluoride could not have a harmful effect on bone tissue or health, even if all the fluorides in water consumed throughout a lifetime were stored in the bones. The report was made at the annual meeting of the Federation of Societies for Experimental Biology by Drs. Frank A. Smith, Dwight E. Gardner and Harold C. Hodge. The three scientists studied bones of a number of individuals who had been exposed to quantities of fluoride many times greater than the optimum amount of one part per million. In another study, Dr. Harold S. Fleming, of the Yale University School of Medicine, studied the relation of fluorides to cancer and reported that tumors transplanted into mice developed more slowly if the mice received fluorides. The study was presented at the recent annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research. In an editorial in the May issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association, The Journal cited these two studies "which strengthen the already sound position of proponents of water fluoridation" and added: "The scientific evidence mounts monthly in favor of fluoridation leaving to opponents of the process only vapid arguments based either on emotionalism or misinformation."

### REPRINTS OF PAGEANT MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON MEASURE AVAILABLE

Reprints of a comprehensive article on the measure in the May issue of Pageant magazine are available upon request to the A.D.A. Bureau

of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11. The article is entitled "A Sure Way to Reduce Tooth Decay" and refutes the most prevalent arguments against the fluoridation program. The author is Henry Lee, of New York. "In not one instance have the fearsome effects predicted by opponents of fluoridation been reported," the article says. A reprint of the article is enclosed with this issue of the A.D.A. News Letter.

### ARKANSAS, NEW JERSEY SOCIETIES RE-AFFIRM FLUORIDATION PROGRAM

Meanwhile, at least two state dental societies at their annual meetings reaffirmed their original endorsement of the program. The Arkansas

State Dental Association, in a resolution at Little Rock, pointed out that "certain forces would tend to disregard the valuable health benefits derived from fluoridation...discounting authoritative reports of qualified scientists." The society went on record re-endorsing the measure "in the interest of better health." The New Jersey State Dental Society adopted a similar resolution at its annual meeting in Atlantic City, reiterating its stand in favor of the program.

## FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION ISSUES MANUAL FOR DENTISTS

The Federal Civil Defense Administration has issued a new manual on "The Dentist in Civil Defense," prepared by Dr. Russell W. Bunting, dental consultant to the civil defense agency. The booklet offers a blueprint of the dentist's role in the event of disaster conditions. The manual's recommendations have been approved by the A.D.A.'s subcommittee on civil defense, headed by Dr. David E. Hunn, of Troy, N. Y. The manual points out that dentists are expected to serve primarily at first-aid stations in emergency relief for such injuries as irradiation illness, burns, contusions and fractures. They also would be expected to treat shock and hemorrhage and alleviate pain. In addition, they would facilitate the transfer of the more seriously injured to hospitals. The manual describes injuries and the treatment prescribed for various conditions. However, it emphasizes the need for training in advanced first aid, including the medical aspects of atomic warfare, for members of the dental profession. A resolution urging state and local dental societies to make arrangements for members to enroll in Red Cross training courses especially designed for dentists was adopted by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees at its meeting last February. In addition, the manual urged that dentists join their local civil defense organization. Copies of the manual have been distributed to state dental societies and to regional, state and local civil defense offices. Single copies may be obtained for 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.

## CONGRESS URGED TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

Expansion of research programs to determine the causes of and new methods of prevention of dental disease which afflicts about 95 per cent of the population was urged last week for the U. S. Public Health Service in testimony before a House Appropriations subcommittee by Dr. Thomas J. McDermott, of Cleveland, vice-chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation. He proposed an expansion of activities for the National Institute of Dental Health, an increase in research fellowships, an emphasis on the program for review and approval of research and training grants, the maintenance at the previous level of funds for technical assistance to states and an increase in funds for coordination and development of dental resources. The recommendations were made on the basis of the budget proposed for the dental division of the U. S. Public Health Service by the previous administration. Meanwhile Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary of the newly-established Department of Health, Education and Welfare which includes the Public Health Service, reported at a press conference that her department is recommending a cut of 14.2 per cent or \$64,383,391 in appropriations asked by former President Truman. Mrs. Hobby said she expected that cuts would be made in virtually all major divisions of her new department, except for such programs as Social Security which are fixed by law. Association representatives are expected to testify before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee regarding dental items in the Public Health Service budget within the next two weeks. They are also expected to testify before a Senate subcommittee on the Veterans Administration dental program.

## 12,370 STUDENTS ENROLLED AT NATION'S 42 DENTAL SCHOOLS

Undergraduate dental students in the 42 accredited dental schools in the United States numbered 12,370 in 1952-53, according to the Dental Students' Register -- 1952-53, published by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. This was an increase of 201 over the figures for 1951-52. Average enrollment was 295 per school, up five from 1951-52. Of the student total, 102 were women, 20 more than last year. Over 40 per cent of the dental students have bachelor's degrees from liberal arts colleges as compared with 37 per cent in 1951-52. Dental hygiene students numbered 1,705 this year, 107 more than last year. Of the dental students, 3,244 were freshmen, 3,125 sophomores, 3,058 juniors and 2,943 seniors. There were 2,975 graduates in 1952 as compared to 2,830 in 1951. Copies of the Dental Students' Register are available free of charge from the Council on Dental Education.

## BRITISH DENTISTS REPORTED CRITICAL OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Criticism of the National Health Service dental program is mounting among British dentists now that the plan has been in operation for five years, it was reported recently by officials of the British and Canadian Dental Associations. Approximately 97 per cent of the dentists are enrolled in the program. The dentists are said to agree with many physicians that the average standard of dental and medical care has gone down, although patients from the lowest economic groups are receiving better attention, and hospital dental services are much improved. Dentists are handicapped by being required to submit an estimate to a central board for approval before any major treatment can be undertaken. At the beginning of the program in 1948 dentists had an unusual rush of patients. Then dental fees were cut, and in 1951 partial charges for dentures put in force, and in 1952 a charge for the first treatment was established. The number of patients declined from 9,000,000 in the second half of 1951 to 7,450,000 in the second half of 1952. Average net earnings of dentists dropped almost 50 per cent from 1949-52, from \$6,660 to about \$3,500.

## 1953 DENTAL DIRECTORY SOLD OUT; ORDERS BEING TAKEN FOR '54 EDITION

Demands for the 1953 American Dental Directory, published by the American Dental Association, have completely exhausted the supply and the Directory is no longer available for purchase, it has been announced by Mr. John J. Hollister, of Chicago, business manager of the Association. However, orders can be placed now for the 1954 Directory which will be issued next December, he said. The cost is \$6 for orders received before Oct. 1 after which the charge is \$7.50. Remittances should be sent to the A.D.A. Order Department, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11. The Directory lists the names and addresses of all members of the dental profession in the United States, its territories and possessions.

## A.D.A. TO LAUNCH NATION-WIDE SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE IN MID-MAY

One out of each three members of the dental profession in the United States will be asked to cooperate in a comprehensive survey of dental practice to be launched by the American Dental Association in mid-May. Under the direction of the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, questionnaires will be sent to 27,000 practicing dentists, including non-members as well as members of the Association. All dentists who receive the questionnaire are urged to cooperate fully in providing the requested information. Purpose of the survey is to compile factual data regarding dental practice. Results will serve as a basis for comparison with a similar survey of the profession made in 1950. Additionally, however, the new survey will include questions on income and professional expense. The survey is expected to provide data on the relationship between economic status in dentistry and such factors as age, number of years in practice, number and type of auxiliary personnel employed, number of dental chairs used, number of patients, geographical region and the like. It is emphasized that each questionnaire will be without identification and no signature will be required. The completed forms will be used only for the compilation of factual data and no information will be released about any individual dentist. Mr. B. Duane Moen, director of the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, appealed for cooperation in completing the forms. "Results of the survey will not only indicate trends in the profession," he said, "but will also give the individual practitioner a standard by which he can measure the efficiency of his own practice."

## KANSAS IS 36th SOCIETY TO EXCEED A.D.A. RELIEF FUND QUOTA -- NATIONAL TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1952-53 NOW IS \$102,493.54

Kansas joined the ranks of the over-100 per cent societies in the 1952-53 campaign for contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund as additional contributions of \$1,050.05 were received during the two week period ending April 24. The national total stands at \$102,493.54, to establish an all-time record high. Thirty-six constituent dental societies now have exceeded their quotas and eight others are in the 90 per cent bracket. Only 15 constituent societies are under the 90 per cent mark. Contributions in the current campaign will be received through June 30 when the 1952-53 fund drive will be officially terminated. All contributions should be sent to the A.D.A. Relief Fund, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

## CHLOROPHYLL ADVERTISERS REPORTED CONCERNED OVER ADVERSE CRITICISM

Advertising men engaged in the \$100,000,000 chlorophyll industry were reported recently in Variety to be concerned over the mounting criticism of claims for the drug, for which an estimated \$20,000,000 has been invested this year in radio and television advertising. Agencies are said to be increasing their advertising for chlorophyll to combat the adverse criticism of such groups as the A.D.A., A.M.A. and the Federal Trade Commission. The method seen by one executive to fight adverse propaganda was to spread the chlorophyll story to more of the people more often. Variety said that the chlorophyll industry was particularly upset over the editorial last month in the British Medical Journal which referred to the "wave of credulity" about chlorophyll claims that has "swept the U. S."

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Brig. Gen. Oscar P. Snyder, director of dental activities at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and former A.D.A. vice-president, has been assigned to a similar post at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Tex. He has been succeeded at Walter Reed by Brig. Gen. E. W. Cowan, former deputy chief of the Army Dental Corps....A bill has been introduced in the South Carolina state legislature at Columbia for the establishment of a four-year school of dentistry in association with the Medical College of South Carolina at Charleston....The Miami Dental Society has approved a resolution urging action to obtain an educational television station for the greater Miami area....A two-day conference of the A.D.A. Council on Journalism has been scheduled for June 5-6 in the Central Office with Dr. William L. Barnum, of Portland, Ore., presiding as chairman....The dentist-population ratio in Canada is now one dentist for every 2,686 persons and the number of undergraduate students enrolled in the country's five dental schools totals 719, the Canadian Dental Association has reported. The U. S. ratio is one dentist for every 1,691 persons....Army Capt. Helen Myers, only woman dental officer in the armed forces, has completed a tour of duty in Trieste and is now serving with the 5th Armored Division at Camp Chaffee, Ark. She is an A.D.A. member.