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 *News Letter*

Vol. 6, No. 14 - July 1, 1953

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE BOOSTS DENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY \$90,000 --
CITES WATER FLUORIDATION AS BENEFICIAL RESULT OF DENTAL RESEARCH**

Appropriations for dental health activities of the U.S. Public Health Service for 1953-54, including research, were restored to the total of \$1,740,000 recommended by President Eisenhower by the Senate Committee on Appropriations this week. This was \$90,000 higher than the appropriations for dental activities previously approved by the House of Representatives. The action by the Senate committee, which now goes before the full Senate, came after the A.D.A. had strongly protested a reduction in funds for dental research and other dental activities. The increased dental appropriation was included in the appropriation bills for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for the year beginning today (July 1). Originally, a budget of \$2,700,000 for dental activities had been submitted to Congress by former President Truman. This was cut to \$1,740,000 in the Eisenhower budget. The House lopped off an additional \$90,000. In voting to restore the House cut, the Senate committee cited fluoridation of water supplies as an outstanding example of the beneficial results of dental research. The committee report declared: "This (dental) research has been most beneficial, and most spectacularly in the finding that minute amounts of fluorides in water will sharply reduce the number of cavities in children's teeth." Noting that most dental research had been done on teeth themselves, the Committee urged that additional research be on a broader basis including not only the teeth but all tissues in the mouth. "This general extension of the scope of dental research is certain to be productive, but it must be stimulated by the provision of more adequate funds for dental research," the report concluded. Should the full Senate approve the committee report, the difference in the dental items would be settled by a conference committee of the two legislative branches.

**DENTAL CARE RIDER IN V.A. BILL
IS ATTACKED BY A.D.A. SPOKESMAN**

A complete legislative review of the eligibility of veterans for dental care from the Veterans Administration was urged last week by Mr.

Francis J. Garvey, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation. Testifying last Friday on the final day of hearings before the Senate Appropriations Committee on V.A. funds during the fiscal year beginning July 1, Mr. Garvey attacked a rider inserted by the House of Representatives which would require veterans to apply to the V.A. for dental care within two years after they were discharged. (See A.D.A. News Letter, June 15, 1953.) He said that the entire problem of dental care for veterans was so extensive that it should have full consideration by a legislative committee of Congress which could spend more time in determining an equitable solution to this problem. At present, Mr. Garvey noted, nearly 20 million veterans are potentially eligible for dental treatment from the V.A. The A.D.A. spokesman said that the \$23 million for dental care of veterans included in the House version of the new V.A. appropriation bill was totally inadequate to meet currently approved applications. He estimated that on the basis of pending cases, approximately \$80 million would be required to finance the V.A. dental program during the next 12 months. Mr. Garvey recommended that the appropriation be increased to an amount reasonably related to the amount of dental treatment to which the V.A. is committed by law. Senator Hunt (D., Wyo.) also appeared as a witness before the Senate committee and urged that the rider added by the House of Representatives be stricken from the V.A. bill.

A.D.A. WILL TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE

tee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs opening July 8. Meanwhile, an A.D.A.-sponsored bill providing more administrative autonomy for the dental program in the V.A. has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Long (D., La.) and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

The Association has been invited to testify on the out-patient dental program of the V.A. at hearings scheduled by the hospitals subcommittee

DENTISTS OMITTED FROM AUGUST CALL; NEW GRADUATES EXPECTED TO FILL QUOTAS

The Defense Department yesterday (June 30) issued a draft call for 542 physicians in August and, for the first time since the summer of 1951, omitted dentists from a call for two consecutive months. The new call-up, covering both July and August, followed immediately on enactment of the new dentist-physician draft act, signed into Public Law 84 on June 29 by President Eisenhower. (See A.D.A. News Letter, June 29, 1953.) In leaving out dentists from the August call, the Defense Department announced that "a sufficient number of dentists had volunteered" to make it unnecessary to call them for that time. Observers pointed out that omitting dentists from the August quota appeared to bear out the A.D.A.'s contention that a considerable number of Priority I and II dentists and dentists in Priority III below the age of 40 remain on the list of those available and acceptable for military service. The A.D.A. had strongly protested Selective Service orders to draft Priority III dentists up to the age of 43 for the June quota. It was also pointed out that with calls for dentists deferred to at least September, there should be available at that time a substantial number of recent dental school graduates to fill quotas for dental officers for the remaining months of 1953. The number of graduates was expected to be sufficient to fill calls even with an expected increase in quotas to replace dental officers eligible for immediate separation from service under the new dentist-physician draft act. (See below.)

SEVERAL HUNDRED DENTISTS ELIGIBLE FOR DISCHARGE

their release or discharge within 90 days after enactment of the law. In the Army, an estimated 275 dental officers are eligible for separation under the law's provision for placing in Priority IV all Priority II men with at least 17 months service. An additional smaller number is eligible for discharge under the sliding scale of service requirements set up in the new law. For example, dental officers who have been on active duty for more than 15 months and have had at least 15 months of previous service are eligible for immediate discharge. The Army has announced that initial separations from service will begin the third week in August and continue to the third week in September with orders issued first to men serving overseas.

Several hundred dental officers are eligible for immediate separation from military service under the new draft act. The law provides for

FEDERAL COMMISSION URGES LIMITED DENTAL CARE FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS

A recommendation that dental treatment for dependents of servicemen be limited primarily to emergency dental care was made to the Department of Defense this week. The recommendation was contained in a report made by the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Medical Care for Dependents of Military Personnel appointed last April by Defense Secretary Wilson. The commission was headed by Dr. Harold G. Moulton, president emeritus of Brookings Institution. The commission's proposals were in keeping with Association recommendations urging that dental care for dependents of servicemen be kept within reasonable limits. The Moulton commission pointed out that there are now an estimated 2,700,000 dependents of some 3,500,000 men in the armed forces and indicated that dental care for dependents was being given at the expense of care for servicemen. "The commission recommends that dental treatment be restricted to emergency care--except in overseas or remote areas where civilian dental facilities are not available," the report said. "The reason for this strict limitation on dental care is that as a practical matter the services have been able to render negligible assistance to civilians because of the requirements of the military personnel. Indeed, there are many places where additional dental care for the military personnel is desirable." The commission proposed that care of dependents be uniform in all the services. Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N.J., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services, represented the Association in testimony before the commission last May.

NEW SURVEY SHOWS CONTINUING INCREASE IN FLUORIDATION OF WATER THROUGHOUT NATION; PROGRAM NOW IN OPERATION IN 771 COMMUNITIES

One out of every nine persons in the United States is routinely drinking water containing a beneficial fluoride content, according to a survey completed last week by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health. The survey revealed that 14,266,351 persons in 771 communities -- a gain of 117 since Jan. 1, 1953 -- are served by fluoridation programs. Additionally, 3,570,021 individuals live in areas served by water supplies naturally containing desirable amounts of fluorides to bring to a total of 17,836,372 the number of persons in the program or more than 11 per cent of the nation. Results of the survey were based on questionnaires sent to state and territorial health departments. Replies revealed that fluoridation is now in operation in every state but five -- Arizona, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The survey also revealed that the program had been discontinued in only six small communities, Mt. Dora, Fla.; Assumption, Ill.; Williamstown, Mass., and the Wisconsin towns of Elroy, La Crosse and Stevens Point. Fluoridation of local water supplies was first started in six communities in 1945. The number of communities which have adopted the procedure by years since 1945 are as follows: 1946, seven; 1947, four; 1948, seven; 1949, 19; 1950, 39; 1951, 225; 1952, 347; and 1953 (first six months) 117. Maryland leads the nation with 1,545,657 persons residing in 164 communities where local water supplies are fluoridated. Second is California with 1,280,144 residents of six communities routinely drinking fluoridated water. In Pennsylvania, fluoridation is in operation in 37 communities with a population of 903,000. Other areas where fluoridation is in operation for large numbers of persons include: District of Columbia, 890,000 persons; Virginia, 873,830; and Michigan, 859,040.

NATION-WIDE ADOPTION IS URGED BY JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

next year. In a resolution adopted at the organization's annual meeting June 11 in Minneapolis, the organization went on record "favoring the controlled fluoridation of municipal water supplies by said municipalities throughout the country."

The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce has urged all state and local member organizations to adopt the fluoridation program as a project

STATE DENTAL DIRECTORS RE-AFFIRM FLUORIDATION

Directors. The resolution, which was approved at the annual meeting of the organization in Washington, D.C., "commends local dental societies, health departments and lay groups for the splendid work they have done in bringing this beneficial measure to the people." At the meeting, Dr. James F. Owen, of Lexington, Ky., was named president and Dr. A. Harry Ostrow, of Washington, D.C., secretary-treasurer, succeeding, respectively, Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, of Nashville, Tenn., and Dr. William A. Jordan, of Minneapolis.

A reaffirmation of its original endorsement of the fluoridation procedure came last week from the Association of State and Territorial Dental

WILLIAM SWEENEY HEADS BUREAU OF STANDARDS DENTAL RESEARCH SECTION

Mr. William T. Sweeney, who was a research associate for the Association at the National Bureau of Standards from 1932-41, is new chief of the bureau's dental research section. A physicist, Mr. Sweeney succeeded Dr. Irl C. Schoonover, who will now devote full time to his position as chief of the recently-established polymer structure section in the bureau. In his new position, Mr. Sweeney is responsible for administration of the bureau's cooperative research program on dental materials, sponsored by the Association, the bureau and the federal dental services.

CAUTION IN USE OF PENICILLIN URGED BY FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS

The federal Food and Drug Administration recently urged all manufacturers of penicillin preparations to include in their promotion material a statement informing the dentist or physician of the possibility of an adverse reaction to penicillin in rare instances. "The reaction appears to occur more frequently in patients with bronchial asthma, other allergies or those who have previously demonstrated a sensitivity to penicillin," the government report said.

DR. LEROY M. ENNIS TO DIRECT DENTAL PROGRAM IN EGYPT FOR YEAR

Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, immediate past president of the Association, will leave for Egypt on Sept. 1 to serve as director and lecturer in the dental school at Fuad I University in Cairo. Dr. Ennis has accepted a Fulbright professorship offered by the U.S. government. In addition to teaching, Dr. Ennis has been asked by Egyptian authorities to assist in modernizing teaching methods and dental practices and raising public health standards. Dr. Ennis, who is professor of oral roentgenology in the School of Dentistry and the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, has been granted a year's leave of absence. A Fulbright lectureship has also been granted Dr. Basil G. Bibby, of Rochester, N. Y., director of the Eastman Dental Dispensary, who has left for New Zealand to serve on the faculty of the University of Otago from July through December. Currently, Dr. Leonard S. Fosdick of Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, is serving as biochemist on an expedition making a month-long study of dental health of native tribes in the Bechuanaland protectorate, Union of South Africa.

DENTAL SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS COOPERATE IN FILM LIBRARY SURVEY

A survey designed to provide guidance for the A.D.A. Film Library in improving service to constituent and component dental societies and to dental schools is now underway. Questionnaires have been sent to secretaries of state and local dental societies and to deans of dental schools. To date, there has been a 50 per cent response. Return of the remaining forms was urged by Miss Helaine Levin, film librarian, Bureau of Library and Indexing Service. Since the establishment of the film library in January, 1952, the Association has more than doubled its film collection.

DR. TEUSCHER NAMED DEAN OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL

Dr. George W. Teuscher, professor of pedodontics at the dental school, Northwestern University, has been appointed dean of the dental school, effective today. Dr. Teuscher succeeds Dr. Charles W. Freeman, dean of the school since 1938, who is retiring to devote full time to teaching. Dr. Freeman will remain on the faculty as professor of dental surgery. Dr. Teuscher joined the dental school faculty in 1933, becoming chairman of the department of pedodontics in 1935. He holds four degrees from Northwestern University: D.D.S., 1933; M.S. in dentistry, 1936; M.A., 1940, and Ph.D., 1942, both of the last in education. In addition to serving at the dental school, Dr. Teuscher is clinical assistant in surgery at the university's medical school and is a staff member of Wesley Memorial Hospital. He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists.

ROLE OF DENTAL SOCIETY IN SCHOOLS DESCRIBED IN NEW BOOKLET

"The Role of the Dental Society in the School Dental Health Education Program" is the title of a new pamphlet issued by the A.D.A. Division of Dental Health Education. The 12-page booklet is designed as a guide for state and local dental societies in assisting schools and can be obtained upon request, without charge, from the Association's Council on Dental Health, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago, Ill.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Establishment of a dental division in the state health department of New Mexico is now underway following approval of an appropriation for the new division by the state legislature at Santa Fe. Creation of the new division is chiefly the result of efforts of the New Mexico State Dental Society....Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held recently for a new \$3 million structure for the College of Dentistry, Howard University, in Washington, D.C. The principal speaker was Dr. John W. Knutson, dental chief of the U.S. Public Health Service....Dr. Wesley J. Dunn, of Toronto, is the new editor of the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association....The appointment book, issued annually by the A.D.A., is now available for 1954 and can be ordered at \$2 each from the A.D.A. Order Department....In Illinois, Dr. John E. Zur, acting deputy director of the State Department of Health in charge of the division of dental health, has been named permanent director.