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V.A. APPROPRIATIONS BILL NEARS ENACTMENT; OUTPATIENT DENTAL PROGRAM TO REQUIRE ACTUAL PROOF OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

The appropriations bill for the Veterans Administration, including the dental program, neared final enactment this week. The bill was before a joint conference committee of the House of Representatives and Senate following approval of the measure in the Senate last Friday. The House previously had passed the bill June 18. The Senate made two changes affecting the dental program. First, the \$23 million earmarked for the outpatient dental program was specifically allocated to the "hometown" program. In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, A.D.A. spokesmen had pointed out that the section was not clear on the specific purpose of the earmarked funds. Secondly, at the instance of Sen. Hunt (D., Wyo.) a House-approved provision limiting applications for dental care to within two years of a veteran's discharge from service was dropped, leaving as the sole provision that applications must be made within a year after enactment of the bill. It was pointed out that at the end of that time, a new bill will have to be enacted. Both the House and Senate, however, retained the provision that actual proof of service-connection would now have to be established for all veterans in the outpatient dental program. Under an old law, dental disabilities existing within a year of the veteran's discharge from military duty are presumed to have been incurred in service.

V.A. ORDERS READJUDICATION FOR THOUSANDS OF VETERANS

Pending final enactment of the appropriations bill, operation of the outpatient dental program of the Veterans Administration was ordered

sharply curtailed last week. A directive issued by the V.A. apparently sought to carry out the measure as it appeared headed for enactment. Under the provision that a veteran's dental condition would have to be proved to have been in existence at the time of his discharge, all applications for care under the hometown program now require adjudication for actual proof of service-connection. The V.A. ruling directly affects the vast backlog of cases awaiting treatment. An estimated 300,000 veterans whose applications for dental care have been approved but whose treatment has not yet been authorized to begin will now have to have their cases readjudicated. The ruling does not apply to veterans whose treatment has already been authorized. Individuals now receiving dental care are likewise not affected. Under the V.A. order, a halt is put to the practice of having hometown dentists give dental examinations to veterans for rating purposes. The provision requiring proof of service-connection applies to veterans of all wars, including the Spanish-American War.

A.D.A. TESTIFIES ON NEED FOR COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF PROGRAM

Meanwhile the whole question of the extent of care that should be provided for veterans, including outpatient dental care, was opened by

the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Testifying yesterday (July 14) for the A.D.A., Mr. Francis J. Garvey, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Legislation, called for a realistic re-evaluation of the entire dental program. Pointing to the practice of providing unending dental care for a veteran, once service-connection is established for an initial carious lesion, he said: "The Association considers this philosophy to be unsound scientifically because, so far as any-

one can tell, there is nothing peculiar about service conditions which will cause an individual to have had more or fewer cavities than he would have had, had he not been in service....and the practice goes beyond the obligation of the government to the veteran." Noting that some 20 million veterans are theoretically eligible for dental treatment, Mr. Garvey pointed out that the liability assumed by the V.A. under the theory that each tooth is a service-connected entity means a costly program impossible of realization. The A.D.A. representative reported that the House of Delegates of the Association is expected to make specific recommendations on the V.A. program, pending which several alternatives appear to be open for consideration. Four suggestions as a basis for study and evaluation of the program were made: (1) that the "tooth-entity theory" be eliminated and treatment be limited to the original service-connected dental condition; (2) that a time limit be placed on the eligibility of a veteran for dental care; (3) that a "one complete treatment" mechanism be studied under which all dental defects of a veteran would be noted at the time of his discharge with treatment limited to those defects, and (4) that for present veterans, a similar procedure be worked out by which corrective treatment for all current defects would be offered as a complete fulfillment of the government's obligation to the veteran. The committee is expected to hold extensive hearings, continuing into the January session of Congress.

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS WEIGHS HEALTH APPROPRIATIONS

A joint conference committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate this week was drafting a compromise appropriations bill for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. As approved by the Senate last week, the bill included \$1,740,000 for dental health activities of the U.S. Public Health Service, including research. The total represented the amount recommended by President Eisenhower. Earlier, the House had approved a budget of \$1,650,000 for the dental program.

UNIFORM DIRECTIVE FOR NEW DENTIST-PHYSICIAN DRAFT ACT TO BE ISSUED

A uniform directive for all branches of the armed forces to carry out all the provisions of the new dentist-physician draft act is to be presented to the Department of Defense July 21. A special Defense Department committee made up of representatives of the health services of the Army, Navy and Air Force was authorized to work out details of a three-service directive July 6 and to report back to assistant defense secretary John Hannah. While it was pointed out that the three branches of the armed services were free to issue their own regulations, the regulations would have to be in conformity with the uniform directive. Under the new dentist-physician draft act, a total of 720 dental officers is eligible for release from the armed forces within 90 days. The total includes 275 dentists in the Army, 249 in the Navy and 196 in the Air Force.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER URGES FLUORIDATION FOR ENGLAND

Fluoridation of public water supplies was recommended for England in a British government White Paper issued last week. The report was based on findings of a five-man official British mission which made a month's study of the subject in the United States last year. The mission was headed by Dr. H. H. Stones, editor of the International Dental Journal and dean of the faculty of the University of Liverpool. The report declared that fluoridation as a method of reducing dental decay is beneficial. Noting that the procedure would have to be adapted to conditions in England, the report recommended that the program should first be conducted in selected areas "to allow a carefully controlled investigation to be carried out in spite of the fact that the evidence of harmlessness is so strong as to be almost conclusive."

FIVE DELEGATES TO REPRESENT A.D.A. AT F.D.I. MEETING IN OSLO

Five U.S. dentists will serve as official A.D.A. delegates to the 41st annual meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale to open July 26 in Oslo, Norway. The meeting will continue through Aug. 2. Headed by Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, immediate past president of the A.D.A., the delegation includes Dr. Clyde E. Minges, of Rocky Mount, N.C., also a former A.D.A. president; Brig. Gen. Marvin E. Kennebeck, chief of the Air Force Dental Service, and Dr. C. William Carrick, of Oberlin, Ohio. A fifth delegate is to be named later. President of the F.D.I. is Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH OF 78,304 ON JUNE 30

Membership in the A.D.A. reached an all-time high of 78,304 on June 30, a gain of 3,009 over the total for the corresponding date a year ago and 582 more than the previous high total established on Dec. 31, 1952. The number of fully-privileged (dentist) members at the end of June was 68,568, an increase of 2,921 over 1952 and 4,663 over the total for 1951. The number of active members was 65,498 compared to 62,734 a year ago and the total of life members was 3,070, up 157 from a year ago. Every constituent society except North Dakota and the Panama Canal Zone showed an increase in membership over last year. North Dakota's total membership on June 30 was the same as a year ago. In the Canal Zone, membership dropped from 15 to nine. Among the federal dental services, gains in membership were reported for the Air Force and the Navy. A decrease in total membership occurred in the Army, U.S. Public Health Service and the Veterans Administration. Membership in categories other than active and life members on June 30 as compared to a year ago was: affiliate, 180 (down 33); associate, eight (up one); honorary, nine (up one), and student, 9,539 (up 119). Active members as of June 30, 1953 and 1952 by constituent societies follow:

	JUNE 30 1953	JUNE 30 1952		JUNE 30 1953	JUNE 30 1952
Alaska	39	34	New Hampshire	201	186
Alabama	545	506	New Jersey	2,725	2,666
Arizona	214	192	New Mexico	159	152
Arkansas	360	345	New York	9,947	9,349
California	2,546	2,418	North Carolina	822	779
California, Southern	3,114	3,009	North Dakota	211	211
Colorado	593	558	Ohio	3,241	3,194
Connecticut	1,255	1,223	Oklahoma	623	595
Delaware	104	99	Oregon	810	762
District of Columbia	530	522	Panama	9	15
Florida	922	817	Pennsylvania	4,436	4,215
Georgia	676	643	Puerto Rico	130	96
Hawaii	246	241	Rhode Island	354	342
Idaho	181	172	South Carolina	238	222
Illinois	4,729	4,650	South Dakota	229	218
Indiana	1,416	1,364	Tennessee	875	794
Iowa	1,097	1,047	Texas	2,117	2,030
Kansas	613	601	Utah	311	275
Kentucky	716	694	Vermont	134	90
Louisiana	629	617	Virginia	764	732
Maine	304	292	Washington	1,172	1,119
Maryland	719	704	West Virginia	488	424
Massachusetts	2,402	2,282	Wisconsin	1,876	1,803
Michigan	2,632	2,429	Wyoming	110	107
Minnesota	1,881	1,849	Air Force	415	390
Mississippi	331	323	Army	390	396
Missouri	1,611	1,610	Navy	586	552
Montana	227	222	Public Health Service	145	188
Nebraska	711	701	Veterans Administration	559	598
Nevada	66	62	Unorganized	12	8
			TOTAL	65,498	62,734

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL BUILDS NEW BASIC SCIENCE HALL

Plans for a new \$500,000 basic science hall for Baylor University School of Dentistry, Dallas, Texas, were announced last week by Dr. Harry B. McCarthy, dean of the school. The building is expected to be completed for the fall term of 1954 and will enable the freshman class to be expanded to 80 students. The present building is now being razed. Announcement was also made of a two-year course for dental hygienists, to begin in the fall of 1955.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REPORTED HEAVY FOR A.D.A. SESSION IN CLEVELAND

Hotel reservations received through the A.D.A. Housing Bureau in Cleveland for the 94th annual session of the Association indicate a very large attendance at the four-day meeting, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. Those planning to attend who have not yet secured confirmed reservations should do so immediately, as the number of available accommodations is diminishing rapidly. Reservation applications should be filed with the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 511 Terminal Tower, Cleveland 13, on the official form in The Journal of the American Dental Association.

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS PREPARES FOR ANNUAL SESSION

The general committee on local arrangements headed by Dr. Walter J. Pryor, of Cleveland, has been at work for several months on plans

for the annual session. The honorary chairmen are: Dr. Homer C. Brown, of Columbus, O., and Dr. Frank M. Casto, of La Jolla, Calif., both former A.D.A. presidents; Dr. Edward C. Mills, of Columbus, O., and Dr. Edward L. Pettibone, of Cleveland, both past presidents of the Ohio State Dental Association; and Dr. William L. Wylie, of Cleveland, professor of operative dentistry and dean of the faculty of the Western Reserve University School of Dentistry. The other officers of the general committee, all of Cleveland, are: Dr. Ralph E. Creig, vice-chairman; Dr. Thomas J. McDermott, treasurer, and Dr. Stanley R. Suit, secretary. Members chosen as chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees, all of Cleveland unless otherwise noted, are: Dr. Louis C. Meier and Dr. Edward C. Knoll, clinics and motion pictures; Dr. Samuel S. Cohen and Dr. Milton Rabine, entertainment and social events; Dr. Harry J. Geurink and Dr. William J. Benson, information services; Dr. John T. Reifke and Dr. William H. Maurer, publicity; Dr. Wiley F. Schultz and Dr. Albion F. Sadd, reception; and Mrs. Herbert J. Hoppe, of Rocky River, O., and Mrs. John T. Reifke, of Shaker Heights, O., women's entertainment.

TENNESSEE UPGRADES STATE DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO DIVISION STATUS

Upgrading of the dental hygiene service of the Tennessee Department of Public Health to the status of a division took place July 1. The new division of dental health now reports directly to the state commissioner of public health, Dr. R. H. Hutcheson. Director of the division is Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, of Nashville. The change in the administrative status of the dental program was attributed chiefly to efforts of the Tennessee State Dental Association. The Tennessee state legislature has earmarked \$300,000 for the dental program. Establishment of the new division is in keeping with the policy of the A.D.A. House of Delegates which recommended in 1950 that "each of the states should be urged to establish a division of dental health within the department of health, and the administration of the dental program should be in the hands of a qualified dental officer who is directly responsible to the state health officer."

R. H. SULLENS NAMED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COUNCIL ON DENTAL EDUCATION

Appointment of Mr. Reginald H. Sullens, of Chicago, as assistant secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education was announced this week by Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary. Mr. Sullens joined the Association staff in January, 1952, as director of the Council's Division of Educational Measurements. A graduate of Northwestern University, he is completing work for a Ph.D. degree in education at the University of Chicago. In his new position, Mr. Sullens will be concerned with dental internship and residency programs, dental specialties, credentials of foreign students and dentists, state licensure boards and Council publications.

BRIEFS

Dental health for the first time is to be part of the full-time program of the World Health Organization, beginning in 1955, under resolution adopted by the recent 6th World Health Assembly in Geneva. Adoption of the resolution was urged by the Federation Dentaire Internationale....The new acting director of the dental health section of the Idaho Department of Public Health is Dr. Gerald Larson, of Boise, who succeeds Dr. Wesley Young, now with the U.S. Public Health Service....Gov. Luis Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico has vetoed a bill that would have permitted dental graduates from all other countries to practice in Puerto Rico.... The nomination of Col. James M. Epperly of the Army Dental Corps as brigadier-general has been confirmed by the Senate.