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ada News Letter

Vol. 7, No. 7 - April 1, 1954

HOUSING BUREAU IS OPENED FOR ANNUAL SESSION AT MIAMI NEXT NOVEMBER

The A.D.A. Housing Bureau was officially opened today for the 95th annual session of the Association to be held Nov. 8-11 in Miami, Fla. A total of 77 excellent hotels at Miami and Miami Beach is cooperating with the A.D.A. to provide first class accommodations for all members and their families at special low rates during the four-day meeting. All reservations for hotel accommodations must be submitted on the official application form and sent to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau at 320 N.E. Fifth Street, Miami. The official form appears on page A-31 of the April issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association. The application form lists the names and rates for the hotels and an accompanying chart indicates the location of each.

A.D.A. OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY ON OASI BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE-- THREE ASSOCIATION AGENCIES HOLD JOINT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., newly-elected vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, will represent the A.D.A. at a hearing on the federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance program before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, D.C., on April 9. The House committee is considering proposals to extend OASI to dentists, physicians and other self-employed persons not now covered in the program. The A.D.A. House of Delegates has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the inclusion of dentists in OASI. Arrangements for an A.D.A. representative to appear before the Ways and Means Committee were completed in Washington last week during a three-day meeting of the Council on Legislation. Also meeting in Washington last week were the Council on Federal Dental Services and the Sub-Committee on Civil Defense. Following several joint sessions in which members of the three A.D.A. agencies met with numerous government officials, each of the three agencies met separately to consider specific problems. Reports on these meetings follow:

COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION REVIEWS PENDING BILLS

Legislative proposals pending in Congress which have a bearing on dentistry were reviewed in considerable detail by the Council on Legislation. The Council, headed by Dr. E. Harold Gale, of Albany, N.Y., voted to support several bills and to oppose several others on behalf of the A.D.A. The Council recommended that Congress take no action at the present time on the White House-backed bill to establish a federal "reinsurance" program to broaden coverage of existing pre-payment health insurance plans. Dr. Gale pointed out that the Council members believe there should be a more detailed study of the entire plan before it is enacted into law. Council recommendations on specific bills pending in the Congress were reported by Dr. Gale as follows:

- H. R. 10 Proposes that self-employed persons create own pension funds by setting aside prior to federal taxation a portion of their annual earned income. Approved.
- H. R. 175 Proposes reorganization of Army Dental Corps. Approved. (A new hearing before the House Services Committee is to be sought for this bill. Identical bills have been previously approved by the Senate but have never won approval in the House of Representatives.)

- H. R. 303 Proposes that the Indian Affairs health services be transferred to the Public Health Service. Approved.
- H. R. 2329 Proposes that the Army Medical Service be authorized to award graduate degrees to dentists and physicians who enroll for special training at Army medical centers. Opposed.
- H. R. 2718 Proposes that the armed forces establish an undergraduate school to train medical and dental officers. Opposed.
- H. R. 4393 Proposes that professional men be permitted to deduct from income tax returns the cost of attending graduate courses of training. Approved.
- H. R. 5878 Proposes reorganization of dental department of Veterans Administration in line with previous A.D.A. recommendations. Support withdrawn because purpose of bill has been generally accomplished.
- H. R. 7199 Proposes that dentists, physicians and other self-employed persons be included in federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance program of Social Security Act. Opposed.
- H. R. 7397 Proposes that the grant-in-aid program of federal government be amended to permit interchange of funds between certain categories. Approved.
- H. R. 7653 Proposes that V.A. dental program be made part of existing law relating to outpatient treatment program. Approved.
- H. R. 8149 Proposes an extension of the Hill-Burton hospital act to provide federal funds for special hospitals, nursing homes and institutions for treatment of chronic cases. Approved in principle. (A.D.A. to recommend amendments relating to dentistry.)
- H. R. 8356 Proposes federal "reinsurance" program to broaden scope of present voluntary health insurance programs. No action recommended pending clarification of plan.

The Council on Legislation is also on record favoring the appropriation of additional funds for the dental health programs of the U.S. Public Health Service and the Veterans Administration. In addition the Council is asking Congress for funds for the construction of a dental research building which was authorized by Congress six years ago. To date, only token funds for the drafting of plans for the new building have been allocated by the Congress. The Council also is examining changes in the Internal Revenue Code which were recommended by the House of Representatives and are now pending before the Senate. Several of the recommended changes, including a proposal that taxpayers be permitted to deduct medical and dental expenses in excess of three per cent of gross income instead of the present five per cent limitation, have a bearing on dentistry and dental practice.

COUNCIL ON FEDERAL DENTAL SERVICES APPROVES V.A. BILL

The Council on Federal Dental Services also approved in principle H.R. 7653 which would incorporate into legislation the present regulatory limitations on the Veterans Administration outpatient program. The bill, presented by Rep. Frelinghuysen (R., N.J.), would limit most veterans to one series of dental treatments for service-connected disabilities and would require veterans to apply for dental care within one year from their date of discharge or within one year from July 1, 1954. The measure is in keeping with a policy of the A.D.A. House of Delegates which calls for an end to unlimited dental treatments for veterans. In another action, the Council approved a proposed policy statement on dental care for dependents of military personnel for submission to the A.D.A. Board of Trustees. A bill on this issue, sponsored by the Defense Department, is expected to be submitted to Congress this week. Presiding at the meeting was Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N.J., Council chairman.

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DEFENSE OFFICIALS ESTIMATE NEEDS FOR DENTAL MANPOWER

During the joint meeting of the two Councils, estimates of additional dental manpower needed by the armed forces for the fiscal year beginning next July were presented. Dental chiefs of the military services estimated that approximately 2,250 new dental officers would be required during the 12 months, including nearly 1,100 for the Air Force, about 700 for the Army and about 450 for the Navy. This total of 2,250 was 375 higher than an earlier estimate made by the Department of Defense. The difference in the two totals was believed to be the result of a higher estimate of need for dental officers in the Air Force. At present, the Department of Defense estimated that there will be 1,400 new dental graduates in addition to approximately 300 dentists in Priority I or II classifications or in the reserves who are now available and acceptable for active duty. These 1,700 dentists will be called first and only after this reservoir of dental manpower has been exhausted will additional Priority III men be called, it was reported.

URGE DEFENSE TRAINING FOR RESERVISTS, DENTAL STUDENTS

The Subcommittee on Civil Defense, headed by Dr. John Abel, of Beverly Hills, Cal., urged increased emphasis on training in emergency casualty services both for students in dental schools and for reserve officers not on active duty. Members of the subcommittee conferred with officials of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, including Dr. Russell L. Bunting, of Ann Arbor, Mich., dental consultant to the FCDA.

HOOVER TASK FORCE INVITES A.D.A. TO TESTIFY ON VETERANS' BENEFITS

The task force on medical services of the Hoover Commission has invited the A.D.A. to testify at hearings on veterans' benefits on April 8 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, of St. Louis, immediate past-president of the Association, is a member of the task force.

PROPOSE STANDARD TEST FOR SCHOOL APPLICANTS FROM FOREIGN LANDS

A standardized examination for dental school applicants from foreign countries will be used at dental schools next year on an experimental basis, it was announced last week at the annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Schools in French Lick, Ind. The new plan will be the first attempt on a national level to provide a formal program to assist in the admission of dental students from abroad. It will be administered by the A.A.D.S. committee on foreign credentials in cooperation with the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. At the annual business meeting officers for the new year were installed as follows: Dr. John E. Buhler, of Atlanta, Ga., president; Dr. Harold J. Noyes, of Portland, Ore., president-elect; Dr. Lee Roy Main, of St. Louis, vice-president, and Dr. Marion W. McCrea, of Baltimore, secretary-treasurer.

DENTAL FILM ON OMNIBUS TV SHOW CALLED "MISUNDERSTANDING"

The presentation of a British-made film, "Tell Me If It Hurts," on the Omnibus television show over CBS on March 21, was vigorously protested by the A.D.A. and members of the dental profession from coast to coast as a totally unrealistic and distorted approach to modern dental treatment. In a letter to the A.D.A., officials of the Ford Foundation, producers of Omnibus, regretted that there had been a "misunderstanding." On the subsequent Omnibus show, on March 28, the announcer explained that the film, produced more than 20 years ago as a type of comedy, had not been presented as in any way describing modern dental treatment.

DR. GEORGE PAFFENBARGER NAMED PRESIDENT OF I.A.D.R.

Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, chief of the A.D.A. research staff at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., was installed as president of the International Association of Dental Research at the close of its 1954 annual meeting March 21 in French Lick, Ind. Dr. Paffenbarger has been a member of the A.D.A. research staff for more than a quarter of a century. New president-elect is Dr. Paul E. Boyle, of Philadelphia. Other officers for 1954-55 are Dr. Joseph F. Volker, of Birmingham, vice-president, and Dr. Edward H. Hatton, of Chicago, secretary-treasurer.

COUNCIL ON DENTAL TRADE AND LABORATORY RELATIONS IS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT NEW SURVEY OF ADVERTISING OF MAIL ORDER DENTURE FIRMS

The Board of Trustees, meeting at the Central Office on March 18 and 19, unanimously authorized the Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations to conduct a new survey of the advertising and promotion activities of dental laboratory firms to determine if these firms are in violation of existing federal law prohibiting the sale of dentures by mail. The Board voted \$5,000 to finance the survey. The Board handled a large number of other matters including the appointment of the full membership of the General Committee on Local Arrangements for the 95th A.D.A. annual session to be held at Miami Nov. 8 through 11. The Board also named Dr. Eugene R. Westcott, of Atlantic City, as general chairman for the 97th annual session to be held in Atlantic City Oct. 1 through 4, 1956. (A more detailed report of actions by the Board of Trustees is published on pages 458-461 of the current issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association.)

INCREASED SUPPORT ASKED FOR FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE

Officers and trustees of the A.D.A. have joined with Dr. Oren Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., president of the Federation Dentaire Internationale, and Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, U.S. national treasurer for the F.D.I., in urging all A.D.A. members to become supporting members of the F.D.I. By special arrangement, a supporting membership in the F.D.I. and subscription to the International Dental Journal are available to A.D.A. members at a cost of only \$9 per year. In view of the tremendous importance of international cooperation among dentists everywhere, each U.S. dentist is being asked to join the F.D.I. immediately by sending his check for \$9 to Dr. Adams, National Treasurer for the F.D.I., 170 Marlborough St., Boston 16, Mass. The 1954 annual session of the F.D.I. will be held in Scheveningen (near The Hague), Netherlands, from June 8 through 13.

APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE REACH 4,166

More than 500 additional applications for coverage under the A.D.A. Health and Accident Insurance Plan were received during the last two weeks of March, it was reported today by Dr. Paul W. Zillmann, of Buffalo, N.Y., A.D.A. insurance trustee. Applications for the \$100 to \$400 a month protection provided under the plan have been received from a total of 4,166 A.D.A. members since the current enrollment period was opened on Feb. 1. The enrollment period will continue through April.

MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, OREGON, VIRGINIA EXCEED QUOTAS IN A.D.A. RELIEF FUND CAMPAIGN -- 33 SOCIETIES NOW "OVER THE TOP"

Four additional state societies exceeded their quotas in the 1953-54 campaign for contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund during the accounting period ending on March 29. They are: Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon and Virginia. Total contributions through March 29 were \$101,944, or 102 per cent of the national quota of \$100,000. In all, 33 constituent societies of the A.D.A. have exceeded their quotas.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, of Dubuque, Ia., A.D.A. president, will confer with President Eisenhower at the White House next Wednesday, April 7....The Commission on Chronic Illness unanimously endorsed fluoridation at its annual meeting in Chicago on March 19. The Commission acted on findings of a special committee headed by Dr. Kenneth F. Maxcy, of Johns Hopkins University, which said in part: "Extensive research into the toxicology of fluorine compounds has revealed no definite evidence that the continued consumption of drinking water containing fluorides at a level of about one part per million is in any way harmful to the health of adults or those suffering from chronic illness of any kind."...Meanwhile, the executive board of the Congress of Industrial Organizations at Washington adopted a report endorsing fluoridation.... The Third Annual Conference on Journalism for editors and executives of dental publications will be held at the A.D.A. Central Office in Chicago on June 18 and 19 under the sponsorship of the Council on Journalism headed by Dr. William L. Barnum, of Portland, Ore., Council chairman.