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## ADA News Letter - 08/01/1954

American Dental Association

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# News Letter

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Vol. 7, No. 16 - August 1, 1954

## SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, REVERSING ITSELF, VOTES TO EXCLUDE DENTISTS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE IN BILL REPORTED OUT TO SENATE FLOOR

The Senate Finance Committee, taking a second look at the proposed new Social Security bill, has voted to exclude dentists and physicians and certain other groups from coverage under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance program of the act. Earlier, the committee had approved a provision to make coverage for these groups optional (see A.D.A. News Letter, July 15, 1954). As reported out to the Senate floor, the bill removes from coverage some 4,100,000 persons, most of whom were included in the measure passed by the House. The House had excluded physicians but not dentists from the program. Specifically exempted from coverage in the revamped bill before the Senate are some 400,000 self-employed professional persons, including dentists, physicians, lawyers, engineers and accountants, and more than 3,500,000 farm operators. If the Senate approves its committee's version of the bill, the measure will have to go to a conference committee of both houses of Congress for a compromise.

### LARGER DEDUCTIONS FOR DENTAL COSTS APPROVED

last week after clearing Congress. The bill allows deductions for expenses totaling more than three per cent of income instead of the current five per cent and doubles the ceilings on these deductions. In other action in Congress, the House Veterans Committee approved a bill (H.R. 9866) introduced by Rep. Frelinghuysen (R., N.J.) that would make permanent restrictions on eligibility for dental care in the outpatient program of the Veterans Administration together with limitations on the amount of dental care that could be received by a veteran. The bill provides that application for dental care would have to be made within one year of the veteran's discharge from service or by Dec. 31, 1954, whichever is later. This provision is attached as a rider in the current V.A. appropriations budget. The other provision of the new bill, which limits treatment to "a one-time completion basis only," is now carried out on a regulatory basis by the V.A.

More liberal deductions for dental and medical expenses are included in the omnibus tax bill that went to President Eisenhower for signature

## DRAFT UNLIKELY FOR DENTISTS IN 40'S CALLED FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Orders to dentists in their late 40's from their local draft boards to take physical examinations and undergo other processing for draft classification do not mean that induction into the armed forces is imminent, it was emphasized last week by Selective Service spokesmen. The explanation was made in the wake of an increasing number of draft board orders to dentists in their late 40's for physical examinations. Classification of these men is a matter of routine procedure under the Selective Service laws, it was pointed out. Previous reports have indicated that most of the requirements of the armed forces for dental officers in the new fiscal year that began July 1 can be met by 1954 graduates of dental schools and those remaining dentists in Priorities I and II.

### SELECTIVE SERVICE CALLS ON DEANS FOR 1954 CLASS LISTS

in Priority III. State chairmen have been called on to cooperate with the dentist members of state Selective Service advisory committees in obtaining lists from deans of dental schools of

Selective Service has taken a new step to help assure that eligible new graduates will be called into active service before any older age groups

1954 graduates with as much information as is available on the military liability of each graduate. "The National Advisory Committee to the Selective Service System is particularly concerned that older men not be called simply because younger men cannot be located," an announcement from the committee said. "It is absolutely essential that every new graduate who is not a Priority IV and especially those graduates who have double liability (both as a regular registrant and a special registrant) apply for a commission or at least be qualified in 1-A so that they will be available for examination and be designated as acceptable for future Selective Service calls." Most of the recent graduates subject to military service are liable primarily under the regular draft law. Selective Service headquarters has officially notified state draft board officials that should a regular registrant who is a dentist or physician receive an induction notice from his local draft board, he may obtain postponement of his induction by submitting evidence to the board that his application for a commission and active duty is being processed.

#### **SURVEY TO COVER STATUS OF ALL DENTAL STUDENTS**

As a means of filling the gaps in knowledge about the draft status of individual dental students, the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education

in cooperation with the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization will conduct a survey in the fall at the nation's 43 dental schools to gather information on the military experience of all dental students. Another survey concerned with the military situation is nearing completion. This survey, also conducted in cooperation with the Health Resources Advisory Committee, covers the Selective Service status and occupational duties of all dental school faculty members, including non-dentists. Purpose of this survey, according to Dr. Shailer Peterson, secretary of the Council on Dental Education, is to help determine the essentiality to the schools of those eligible for the draft and also to determine whether and to what degree a shortage of faculty members may exist.

#### **DENTAL CONSULTANTS OF HOOVER TASK FORCE TO TOUR INSTALLATIONS IN STUDY**

A visit to some 30 dental establishments of the federal government will be made this week by the newly organized committee of consultants on dentistry to the medical services task force of the Hoover Commission. The consultants will divide into two groups, traveling throughout the eastern and western portions of the country. The committee was appointed to make a special study of dental establishments in the armed forces, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Veterans Administration and to make recommendations on the basis of its findings. A deadline of Aug. 30 has been set for completion of the project. Dental installations in the western part of the country will be visited by Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, of St. Louis, member of the task force and chairman of the committee, Dr. James P. Hollers, of San Antonio, Tex., and Mr. Francis Garvey, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation. The eastern study will be made by Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N.J., Dr. Leo J. Schoeny, of New Orleans, and Mr. Bernard Conway, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services.

#### **W.H.O. CALLS MEETING TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF DENTAL PROGRAM**

The World Health Organization has called a meeting of dental experts in Geneva, Switzerland, during September, to discuss plans for developing a dental program which might be initiated by W.H.O. Dentists invited to participate in the conference are: Dr. John W. Knutson, of the United States; Dr. Helge Berggren, of Sweden; Dr. J. Leimena, of Indonesia and Dr. Mummery, of New Zealand. Conference participants have been invited as dental experts and not necessarily as representatives of their countries, it was announced. In addition, an observer from the Federation Dentaire Internationale is to be named. The F.D.I. had requested W.H.O. to initiate planning for a long-range dental program to be conducted by the international health group.

#### **DR. J. B. CARR, OF INDIANAPOLIS, FORMER A.D.A. TRUSTEE, IS DEAD**

Dr. James B. Carr, of Indianapolis, former A.D.A. trustee, died July 20 at the age of 72. Dr. Carr was graduated from the Indiana Dental College in 1905 and had been in private practice almost half a century. He was a past president of the Indianapolis Dental Society, the Indiana State Dental Association, the State Board of Dental Examiners and the National Association of Dental Examiners. From 1946 to 1952 he served as A.D.A. trustee for the 7th District, representing dentists of Indiana and Ohio. He was a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon and a fellow of the American College of Dentists. He is survived by his wife, Maude, and two sons.

## **A.D.A. INSURANCE PROGRAM WITHIN 1,000 APPLICATIONS OF QUOTA**

Fewer than 1,000 additional applications for the A.D.A. Accident and Health Insurance program are needed to reach the 50 per cent mark of the membership required to make the program fully operative, Dr. Paul Zillmann, A.D.A. insurance trustee, reported today. The current enrollment period will extend to Sept. 15. Once the 50 per cent mark is reached, insurance coverage up to \$200 a month will be available to all A.D.A. members in active practice despite unfavorable medical histories. The A.D.A. plan is the only source of such insurance for most of these members, Dr. Zillmann pointed out as he urged all interested persons to make application for protection under this program. Announcements of the extension of the enrollment period to Sept. 15 have been mailed to all members of the Association who have not so far filed an application for this insurance protection. Applications are being accepted from all members except those in New York, New Jersey, California, Nevada and Utah where a similar insurance program is in operation. To date, a total of 28 constituent dental societies, or one more than one-half, have already passed the 50 per cent mark, thus qualifying the insurance program for the so-called impaired risks in their respective societies. Dr. C. E. Peterson, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Insurance, said he was confident that the quota would be reached in this final extension of the enrollment period. The A.D.A. plan, Dr. Peterson emphasized, is being made available to all members to help them obtain additional insurance protection should they desire it and to provide protection for those who cannot obtain it elsewhere.

## **SPECIALISTS IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE CALL FLUORIDATION SAFE**

An overwhelming majority of the specialists in preventive medicine at U.S. and Canadian universities consider fluoridation a safe and beneficial health procedure. In a survey conducted by the Health League of Canada at the request of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, letters were sent to the heads of departments of preventive medicine at all universities in the United States and Canada asking their opinion on the value and safety of the public health measure. Of the 76 replies, not one opposed fluoridation. Emphatic approval was expressed by 69 department heads; six declined to express an opinion, and one suggested the need for caution and further study although he was not opposed to fluoridation. Typical of the comments was that made by Dr. H. J. Shaughnessy, of the University of Illinois: "It seems to me that adding fluorides to the water is merely a matter of making up a deficiency which occurs in some natural waters and not in others. Therefore, if fluoridation is properly done and properly controlled there should be no ill effects but only a beneficial effect such as occurs from the ingestion of water which naturally contains fluorine of the proper amounts." Commenting on the political aspects of fluoridation, Dr. H. E. Pearson, of the University of Southern California stated: "...the concept (of fluoridation) should not be subject to the caprices of local politics. I believe that the requirement for fluoridation of public water should be part of state law."

### **BONE X-RAYS OF 2,000 CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SAFETY OF PROGRAM**

Further confirmation of the safety of fluoridation has been presented in a new U.S. Public Health Service study of the effect of fluorides

on bone development. X-rays were taken of 2,050 children, aged 7 through 14 years, living in three U.S. cities with water supplies containing from 3.5 to 4.5 ppm, 3.3 to 6.2 ppm and .1 ppm of fluoride ion respectively. No evidence was found of any adverse effect on the bones or on their growth and development as a consequence of drinking water containing approximately 3.3 to 6.2 ppm of fluoride ion, the study concluded.

## **LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION STARTS CHILDREN'S DENTAL CARE PROGRAM**

The International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union has announced that its pilot dental care program for members' children will start in the San Francisco Bay Area on Sept. 1. An allocation of \$750,000 from the union's welfare fund has been made to initiate the program. Present plans call for later extension of the program to the Los Angeles area and the Pacific Northwest. Dr. William Ryder, of San Francisco, chairman of the California State Dental Association's committee on dental care, said after conferences with the union that both groups hope a sound program will be developed but many questions are as yet unanswered.

## CUBAN SOCIETY INVITES A.D.A. MEMBERS TO HAVANA AFTER MIAMI MEETING

A special post-convention tour to Havana following the A.D.A. Miami meeting in November is being arranged for A.D.A. members by the Cuban Dental Society. Dr. Horacio Alonso Loys, president of the Cuban society, has officially invited all A.D.A. members to participate in the tour and to be guests of the society at its Fourth National Convention immediately after the 95th annual A.D.A. meeting, Nov. 8-11. As an accommodation to A.D.A. members, the Cuban society has arranged special tours to Havana by airway or ship. Included in the tours will be transportation, hotel reservations, meals side tours through Cuba, and attendance as a guest of the Cuban Dental Association at special social events. Further information may be obtained by writing to Dr. Antonio Montero Jr., Housing Bureau, Colegio Estomatologico Nacional, Edificio Retiro Odontologico, Vedado, Havana, Cuba. Ample numbers of choice hotel rooms are still available for the A.D.A. meeting at special low rates, it was announced by Dr. Curtis A. Haggard, general chairman. Full information on hotel rates and the official application blank for room reservations is published in The Journal of the American Dental Association.

## INJUNCTION ISSUED TO STOP SALE OF OUT-DATED X-RAY FILMS

The U.S. District Court for the southern district of New York state has issued a temporary injunction prohibiting the Paramount Dental Supply Co., of New York, from further sale of out-dated x-ray films. The injunction was granted after the Minimax Co., manufacturers, sued the supply company for selling out-dated Minimax x-ray films as new. The films were government surplus sold for scrap (see A.D.A. News Letter, June 15, 1954). It has been announced that the Federal Trade Commission is also investigating the case.

## DR. ELMER S. BEST DIES AT THE AGE OF 73

Dr. Elmer S. Best, of Minneapolis, secretary of the International College of Dentists and editor of Dental Survey, died July 9 at the age of 73. He was a past president of the Minneapolis District Dental Society and of the Xi Psi Phi dental fraternity. He was graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgeons in 1906.

## BRODERICK JOHNSON NAMED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF INDIANA ASSOCIATION

Mr. Broderick H. Johnson has been appointed executive secretary of the Indiana State Dental Association, it has been announced by Dr. W. N. Kelly, of Clinton, the association's president. At the same time, Dr. Kelly announced the establishment of a central office for the society in Indianapolis. Mr. Johnson was formerly director of public relations for the Kellogg Center for Continuing Education at Lansing, Mich. He has held teaching and administrative positions in the schools of journalism at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Kansas and Syracuse University.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, of Dubuque, Iowa, president of the A.D.A., this week will address the Alaska Dental Society, meeting Aug. 2-5 in Anchorage....The third conference on nomenclature sponsored by the A.D.A. Bureau of Library and Indexing Service has been scheduled for Sept. 3-4 in Association headquarters....Dates for the 13th annual Mid-Continent Dental Congress of the St. Louis Dental Society are Nov. 28-Dec. 1 at the Hotel Jefferson in St. Louis....Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., A.D.A. president-elect, will be a speaker at the second annual Ark-La-Tex Dental Congress Aug. 16 in Shreveport. The meeting is sponsored by the Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas dental societies....The government has issued a special stamp to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Eastman, inventor and industrialist, whose chief philanthropy was children's dentistry. He endowed the Eastman Dental Dispensary in Rochester, N.Y., and dental clinics in London, Brussels, Paris, Rome and Stockholm....There was one dentist for every 2,790 persons in Canada last year compared to the 1952 ratio of one to 2,686. The 1953 U.S. ratio was one practicing dentist for every 1,900 persons....In the Philippines, President Magsaysay has signed into law a bill separating the dental service of the Philippine Armed Forces from the medical service. Under the new law, the chief of the army dental service is directly responsible to the army chief of staff. At the signing ceremony were officers of the Philippine Dental Association.