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Vol. 7, No. 25 -- Dec. 15, 1954

U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS RIGHT OF SHREVEPORT TO FLUORIDATE -- RULES THERE IS NO "SUBSTANTIAL FEDERAL QUESTION" INVOLVED

The U.S. Supreme Court last week sustained a Louisiana court decision upholding the right of Shreveport, La., to fluoridate its water supply. It was the high court's first direct ruling on the measure. Previously, the court had refused to review a California Supreme Court decision supporting San Diego's right to fluoridate (see A.D.A. News Letter, July 1, 1954). In the Shreveport case, the high court dismissed an appeal by antifuoridation forces from a Louisiana Supreme Court decision, and held there was no "substantial federal question" involved. The Louisiana Supreme court had reversed the only decision ever rendered against fluoridation and had ruled that the evidence "overwhelmingly refutes the contention that prevention of tooth decay is not a matter of public health but of private hygiene." Earlier, on Dec. 2, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington ruled 5 to 4 in favor of fluoridation when it upheld the right of Chehalis to undertake the public health program. In addition to Louisiana and California, Oklahoma's high court had previously upheld the constitutionality of the measure.

1,032 COMMUNITIES FLUORIDATING; SAGINAW DISCONTINUES PROGRAM

Three new communities were added to the fluoridation rolls this week, bringing the number of U.S. communities with the program in operation to 1,032. Some 20,283,000 persons are now receiving fluoridated water, according to the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health. Meanwhile, it was announced that Saginaw, Mich., which started fluoridating its water in 1951, had discontinued the measure after a city-wide referendum. Fluoridation was defeated in the city of 90,000 persons by a margin of 228 out of 23,840 total votes.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON OPPONENTS OF MEASURE AVAILABLE FROM A.D.A.

"Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation" is the title of a new Mimeographed brochure compiled by the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information. The brochure contains excerpts from material concerning some of the individuals, organizations and publications opposed to fluoridation. Included are comments on Dr. Charles Betts, E. H. Bronner, the Citizens Medical Reference Bureau, Congressman A. L. Miller, Dr. Royal Lee, Dr. Leo Spira and Dr. Alfred Taylor. Copies may be obtained from the Bureau without charge.

A.A.A.S. PUBLISHES BOOK ON FLUORIDATION STUDIES

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has announced publication of a new book entitled "Fluoridation as a Public Health Measure." The new work contains 11 essays by noted research men covering the entire field of fluoride ingestion and human health. Most of the essays were originally presented in symposia at A.A.A.S. annual meetings. The editor, Dr. James H. Shaw, of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Boston, sums up the research with the comment that "no other public health procedure in the annals of history has been so thoroughly tested in field trials under the widest variety of controlled circumstances." Price of the book for A.A.A.S. members is \$4 and for non-members, \$4.50. Copies may be obtained by writing A.A.A.S., 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

SELECTIVE SERVICE ORDERS PROCESSING OF DENTISTS TO AGE OF 45

Selective Service last week directed local boards to renew the processing of dentists and physicians registered under the special dentist-physician draft act. The directive reached a new high in age groups. Included for the first time were non-veteran Priority III dentists up to the age of 45 along with Priority I and II dentists. The directive came in the wake of a new, and presumably final, call for 459 dental officers for military service under the special draft act which expires next July. (See below.) While the Selective Service order would make Priority III special registrants, born on or after Jan. 1, 1910, subject to April induction, indications were that the bulk of the quota would be filled by those below the age of 43. Under the provisions of the act, men in the Priority III classification are to be called in order of age with the youngest being called first. It was also emphasized that a notice for a physical examination does not necessarily mean that induction is imminent.

DR. LYNCH TERMS MILITARY 'COMPLACENT' ON DRAFT PLANS

In New York last week, Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., president of the A.D.A., served public notice that the dental profession

would actively oppose any extension of the dentist-physician draft act after its expiration date. Speaking at the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Dr. Lynch pointed out that the armed forces have continued to maintain approximately the same ratio of one dental officer for each 500 personnel of the armed forces that has been in effect since early in World War II. He added that the military today is using proportionately about four times as many dentists to treat military personnel as are available to treat civilians. Charging that the special draft act "has encouraged the military to be complacent about the whole matter," he said: "The military has only had to request additional dental officers and they were immediately delivered under the threat of being forcibly drafted. The American Dental Association has supported this legislation. We now feel that the military has had ample opportunity to put its house in order insofar as dental programs are concerned. When the dentist-physician draft act expires next June 30, the American Dental Association will oppose any extension of this legislation related to a special class of citizens." Dr. Lynch emphasized that "the dental profession in no way wants to deprive any man or woman in military service of any necessary health treatment." "Nor," he added, "has it attempted to force the military to rush into any hurriedly conceived program. The Defense Department now has had almost five years to work out a long-range program. I think it is time now for action." The A.D.A. House of Delegates, in Miami last month, voted to oppose continuation of the special draft law and said future needs of the armed forces, barring an unforeseen emergency, could be filled by new dental graduates.

DENTISTS HOLD OFFICE IN NINE STATE LEGISLATURES, INFORMAL SURVEY SHOWS

Members of the dental profession hold office in at least nine state legislatures, a partial canvass by the A.D.A. Council on Legislation reveals. Three states, West Virginia, Iowa and Arizona, each have two dentists in the state representative body. The six remaining states, each with one dentist in the legislature, are Wisconsin, Washington, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina and Indiana.

1955 A.D.A. DIRECTORY, LISTING 96,000 DENTISTS, AVAILABLE JAN. 1

The 1955 edition of the American Dental Directory, listing names, addresses and biographical data of 96,000 dentists, will be available Jan. 1, Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary announced. The largest ever published, the new Directory will contain up-to-date information on key dental personnel in each state, a list of dental schools, a separate listing of specialists and the names of national and international dental organizations. Price of the Directory is \$7.50.

STATE HEALTH OFFICERS COMMEND A.D.A. AT ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., last week, commended the A.D.A. for its action in urging the strengthening of state dental health programs. The A.D.A. resolution was adopted in Miami last month.

CIVIL DEFENSE STAFF COLLEGE AGAIN TO CONDUCT COURSE FOR DENTISTS

The Federal Civil Defense Administration will again conduct a special three-day course in civil defense for dentists at the Civil Defense Staff College at Olney, Md. The course, to be given Feb. 16-18, will be similar to that conducted last May and will include lectures and demonstrations on the dentist's role in organization and training and on the effects of nuclear, chemical and biologic warfare. There is no fee for the course. Board and room at the college is \$5 a day. Dental societies interested in sending representatives or individual dentists wishing to attend should write immediately to: Civil Defense Staff College, Olney, Md.

FIVE SOCIETIES AND U.S.P.H.S. EXCEED QUOTAS IN FUND DRIVE -- TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1954-55 CAMPAIGN CLIMB TO \$64,969

Five more societies and the U.S. Public Health Service exceeded their quotas in the current Relief Fund drive as total contributions climbed to \$64,969.86 on Dec. 13. Topping the 100 per cent mark, in addition to the U.S.P.H.S., were Alabama, Alaska, Montana, Nevada and the Panama Canal Zone. Tennessee, the first society to exceed its quota, continued to lead in total percentage with 202 per cent of quota contributed. Although the \$100,000 campaign was nearing the two-thirds mark, contributions continued to lag behind last year's pace by more than \$4,000. The larger societies (quotas over \$925), with 64.5 per cent of quota, maintained their initial lead over the smaller societies (quotas of \$925 or under), which marked up nearly 62 per cent of quota. A list of contributions by federal services and constituent societies to Dec. 13 follows:

QUOTA OF \$925.00 or UNDER				QUOTA OVER \$925.00			
		1954-55				1954-55	
	QUOTA	CONTRI- BUTION	PCT.		QUOTA	CONTRI- BUTION	PCT.
Air Force	\$ 600.00	\$ 211.75	35.3	California	\$ 3,820.00	\$ 2,883.50	75.5
ALABAMA	800.00	944.50	118.1	So. California	4,580.00	2,668.00	58.3
ALASKA	60.00	95.00	158.3	Colorado	960.00	426.00	44.4
Arizona	300.00	94.00	31.3	Connecticut	1,940.00	1,381.50	71.2
Arkansas	560.00	404.50	72.2	Florida	1,380.00	1,028.50	74.5
Army	580.00	237.50	40.9	Georgia	1,020.00	560.00	54.9
Delaware	150.00	130.00	86.7	Illinois	7,240.00	5,382.06	74.3
Dist. of C.	830.00	635.00	76.5	Indiana	2,340.00	1,840.50	78.7
Hawaii	350.00	113.00	32.3	Iowa	1,780.00	1,587.00	89.2
Idaho	260.00	94.50	36.3	Kansas	960.00	648.15	67.5
Maine	460.00	265.00	57.6	Kentucky	1,130.00	422.80	37.4
Mississippi	530.00	378.00	71.3	Louisiana	1,020.00	672.50	65.9
MONTANA	370.00	397.00	107.3	Maryland	1,060.00	845.00	79.7
Navy	920.00	319.00	34.7	Massachusetts	3,690.00	1,321.00	35.8
NEVADA	100.00	100.00	100.0	Michigan	4,100.00	3,000.50	73.2
New Hampshire	300.00	173.00	57.7	Minnesota	2,840.00	2,020.05	71.1
New Mexico	240.00	185.50	77.3	Missouri	2,450.00	1,658.50	67.7
North Dakota	330.00	234.05	70.9	Nebraska	1,060.00	1,010.00	95.3
Oklahoma	920.00	694.00	75.4	New Jersey	4,020.00	2,769.50	68.9
PANAMA C.Z.	10.00	10.00	100.0	New York	15,200.00	7,215.00	47.5
P.H. SERVICE	210.00	216.00	102.9	N. Carolina	1,240.00	528.00	42.6
Puerto Rico	190.00	39.50	20.8	Ohio	4,920.00	3,124.25	63.5
Rhode Island	560.00	318.00	56.8	Oregon	1,230.00	936.50	76.1
S. Carolina	450.00	176.50	39.2	Pennsylvania	6,810.00	3,938.25	57.8
S. Dakota	350.00	97.00	27.7	TENNESSEE	1,310.00	2,649.00	202.2
Utah	470.00	417.50	88.8	Texas	3,190.00	1,761.50	55.2
Vermont	200.00	95.00	47.5	Virginia	1,150.00	837.50	72.8
Vet. Admin.	810.00	200.00	24.7	Washington	1,800.00	1,554.50	86.4
W. Virginia	760.00	530.50	69.8	Wisconsin	2,930.00	1,567.50	53.5
Wyoming	160.00	114.50	71.6				
TOTAL	\$12,830.00	\$7,919.80	61.7		\$87,170.00	\$56,237.06	64.5

	1954-55	
	QUOTA	CONTRIBUTION
QUOTAS OF \$925 or UNDER	\$ 12,830.00	\$ 7,919.80
QUOTAS OVER \$925	87,170.00	56,237.06
STUDENTS		572.00
MEMORIALS		240.00
MISCELLANEOUS		1.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$100,000.00	\$64,969.86
		65.0

BEGIN DISTRIBUTION OF KITS AND POSTERS FOR CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Posters and portfolios of material designed to aid constituent and component dental societies in staging observances for the forthcoming National Children's Dental Health Week were being distributed this week. The 1955 observance is Feb. 7-13. The kits and posters were being sent directly to individuals designated by state and component society secretaries. For the first time, two posters were being issued. Both carry the slogan, "Fewer Sweets Mean Better Teeth." One poster, 11 by 17 inches in red and black, depicts two children writing on a blackboard. The other, eight and a half by 11 inches in yellow and brown, carries a drawing of the noted cartoon character, "Dennis the Menace." The drawing, together with a second "Dennis" cartoon in an A.D.A. Clipseet included in the portfolio, were contributed to the Association for the observance as a public service by Mr. Hank Ketcham, creator of the character. Additional posters and portfolio material may be obtained from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11. In cooperation with the Association, a third poster has been made available for the event. The poster, prepared by the International Apple Association, emphasizes the importance of toothbrushing and the role of fruits in maintaining sound dental health. The poster, nine by 20 inches and in four colors, has been approved by the A.D.A. Bureau of Dental Health Education. These posters may be obtained without charge upon request to the International Apple Association Inc., 1302 18th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

8 OUT OF 10 DENTISTS NOW A.D.A. MEMBERS; TOTAL REACHES 82,354

A.D.A. membership figures continued to establish records as the total reached 82,354 on Nov. 30. Included were 72,436 dentists and 9,695 students. Eight out of each ten practicing dentists are now members of the Association, according to the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Re-

SECRETARIES OF CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES are reminded to forward all 1955 membership dues as early as possible. In accordance with Association Bylaws, individuals whose dues are not received by the March 31 deadline cease to be members in good standing. Participation in A.D.A. insurance programs may be jeopardized if the deadline is missed. In addition, the individual's subscription to The Journal of the American Dental Association, and his listing as a member in the A.D.A. Directory may be discontinued.

search and Statistics. Forty-five constituent societies and the Navy registered gains during the year, one society's total remained the same and eight societies and the Air Force, Army, Public Health Service and Veterans Administration showed losses.

HISTORY OF DENTISTRY IN OKLAHOMA TO BE PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY PRESS

A history of dentistry in Oklahoma, written under the auspices of the historical committee of the Oklahoma State Dental Association, is being published by the University Press, University of Oklahoma, and will be issued March 1. Author of the book is Dr. J. Stanley Clark, Ph.D., in history, who compiled a narrative of the dental profession extending from territorial days to 1954. The book is entitled, "Open Wider Please; The Story of Dentistry in Oklahoma." Orders for the book may be sent to Dr. Sumner A. Russman, Medical Arts Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Some 4,560 applicants took the National Board examination this year, setting an all-time record, Dr. Victor L. Steffel, of Columbus, Ohio, chairman of the A.D.A. Council of the National Board of Dental Examiners, reported this week....Seton Hall University's new College of Medicine and Dentistry has been officially chartered by the New Jersey State Board of Education, it has been announced by Msgr. John L. McNulty, university president....In a decision affecting many dental research scientists, the Tax Court of the United States has ruled that research and study grants from philanthropic organizations are not subject to income tax. The decision reverses an earlier finding....The 1955 March of Dimes campaign, seeking \$64 million, got under way this month at the close of the nation's third worst polio year.