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DEFENSE DEPARTMENT URGED TO CUT BACK ON CALLS FOR DENTISTS OVER 40-- A.D.A. TRUSTEES CONFER WITH DEFENSE AID ON SPECIAL DRAFT LAW

Opposition to the extension of the existing dentist-physician draft law was re-affirmed by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees at its spring meeting in Chicago. The House of Delegates last November voted to oppose the continuation of the law after its expiration June 30. The trustees' action came after new abuses of the law were highlighted in a conference with Dr. Frank Berry, assistant secretary of defense for health and medical affairs. Information indicated that 150 members of the 1955 dental school graduating classes were being told they would not be called into military service in the Air Force or Navy until mid-1956 while some 330 dentists over the age of 40 were being called on by Selective Service to enter military service immediately. The A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services had vigorously protested the situation to the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization, top level review board on professional health manpower for the Department of Defense and the Selective Service System. While the trustees were conferring, the Health Resources Advisory Committee notified the A.D.A. that action was being taken on the matter. The committee sent the Defense Department a strong recommendation to delay calls to active duty of dentists over the age of 40. The committee, whose dentist member is Dr. Leo J. Schoeny, of New Orleans, also issued a bulletin to dental school deans and state advisory committees to Selective Service, which said:

In view of the fact that two of the armed services were notifying some senior dental students that they will not be called to active duty until a year after their graduation in June 1955, the Health Resources Advisory Committee has requested the fullest cooperation of the Department of Defense in delaying the call to active duty of any dentist over 40 years of age.

At the same time, efforts were being made to arrange for the young men in the graduating classes to be re-allocated to the Army whose replacement needs are apparently not yet fulfilled. In discussions with the trustees, Dr. Berry indicated that the Defense Department would call on Selective Service to cease and desist from taking older men until the situation is corrected. Twelve days later, on April 11, a follow-up letter to Dr. Berry from the Council on Federal Dental Services urged that the Department of Defense "at this time give effect to the promise held forth in your comments before the Board of Trustees." The letter added: "The immediate use after graduation of all available and acceptable senior dental students could ostensibly relieve the dentists over 40 years of age now in receipt of orders to active duty."

RE-INSURANCE PROGRAM VIEWED AS UNSOUND FOR DENTAL CARE

government proposal for federal re-insurance of private health insurance plans on two grounds: (1) that the principle of re-insurance is not applicable to dental health care programs at present, and (2) that the re-insurance of dental health care programs involves the danger of providing federal subsidies for programs which are actuarially unsound. With regard to proposed legislation for federal insurance of mortgage loans for construction of health facilities,

In action on other legislative issues that are expected to be debated in Congress in the near future, the A.D.A. trustees voted to oppose the

the trustees recommended that no action be taken by the federal government for construction of dental treatment facilities unless it was clearly shown that existing facilities were inadequate. In order to determine the state of these facilities, the trustees recommended a comprehensive survey be conducted prior to the establishment of any federal program intended to increase the number of dental treatment centers. On the problem of dental care in the proposed new national reserve program under which 100,000 youths would receive military training every six months, the trustees recommended that dental care be limited to emergency treatment. They also proposed that dental standards for entrance to the program bar individuals requiring extensive mouth rehabilitation.

NAME SPECIAL COMMITTEES ON LIFE MEMBERSHIP, TELEVISION

The trustees established two special committees. One, to study the life membership program, includes Dr. William R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, as chairman; Dr. Howard B. Higgins, of Spartanburg, S.C., and Dr. Edward R. White, of Jersey City. The other special committee was appointed to look into the feasibility of television activities for the Association. Committee members are Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, chairman; Dr. A. F. Schopper, of Kansas City, and Dr. John R. Abel, of Beverly Hills, Calif. Both committees were appointed by Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., Association president, and both were directed to report at the September meeting of the trustees.

ASSOCIATION WILL INVITE F.D.I. TO 1959 CENTENNIAL

The board voted to extend an invitation to the Federation Dentaire Internationale to hold its 1959 meeting in New York City in conjunction with the Association's centennial session. The dates of Sept. 21-24 were chosen for the centennial meeting. For the 1957 session in Miami, Nov. 4-7 was designated, and for the 1958 session in Dallas, Nov. 10-13 was selected. The trustees also directed that official appreciation on behalf of the Association be extended to Mr. Hank Ketcham, creator of the "Dennis the Menace" cartoon character, for his contributions to the 1955 observance of National Children's Dental Health Week. In another action, the trustees appointed Dr. Paul W. Zillmann, of Buffalo, as A.D.A. insurance trustee for the group health and accident program for a three-year term as of Jan 1, 1955, the effective date of the insurance contract.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION REACHES 72,722

Total membership in the A.D.A. reached 72,722 on March 31, the highest total ever attained for that date. Included were 63,666 fully privileged members, a gain of 676 over last year. Membership in other categories was affiliate, 187; associate, 15; honorary, 12, and student, 8,842. Secretaries of constituent dental societies were urged to forward membership dues as promptly as possible since delay might jeopardize a member's participation in the insurance program, his subscription to The Journal of the A.D.A., and other benefits of membership.

CONFERENCE ON JOURNALISM, JUNE 12-14, TO DESIGN DENTAL JOURNAL

"Paste-pot and scissors" will be the subject of a workshop at the Conference on Dental Journalism June 12-14 at Allerton Park, Ill. The conference is sponsored by the American Association of Dental Editors and the A.D.A. Council on Journalism. Under the guidance of faculty members from the University of Illinois journalism school, the editors will work out the actual layout and design of a dental journal. Other topics to be discussed include printing problems, terms and tools in printing and engraving, editorial office procedure and editing the scientific manuscript. Dr. W. W. MacQueen, of Minneapolis, president of the A.A.D.E., and Dr. William L. Barnum, of Portland, Ore., chairman of the council, will preside.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIEF FUND CLIMB TO NEW HIGH OF \$108,370

Total contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund drive climbed to a record high of \$108,370 on April 11. Three new states -- Connecticut, Massachusetts and Mississippi -- exceeded their quotas, bringing the number of societies which have topped the 100 per cent mark to 42. The smaller societies, (quotas of \$925 or less) with 109.9 per cent of quota, held nearly a three point lead over the larger societies (quotas over \$925). The campaign will continue through June 30. A complete breakdown of contributions by constituent societies and federal dental services is listed on the accompanying insert.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER ENDORSES A.D.A. DRIVE TO AID KOREAN DENTISTRY

President Eisenhower last week expressed his support of the campaign sponsored by the A.D.A. and the American-Korean Foundation to rehabilitate dental education and dental services in South Korea. A luncheon meeting in the White House April 5 formally opened the nation-wide drive to enroll all U.S. dentists in the Foundation's work through special dental memberships being made available at \$5 each. All dentists are urged to respond as generously as possible to the special appeal mailed this month by Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., president, and Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the Council on International Relations of the A.D.A. Dr. Lynch recently was presented with an inlaid jeweled box by Dr. Myung Jin Park, dean of the University of Korea College of Dentistry, in appreciation for the aid given the school by American dentists during last year's Help Korea Train campaign. In addition to Dr. Lynch and Dr. Oliver, members of the A.D.A. who attended the White House luncheon with President Eisenhower were: Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, of Dubuque, Iowa, immediate past president; Dr. Obed H. Moen, of Watertown, Wis., secretary of the Council on International Relations; Dr. John A. Moore, of Tacoma, Wash.; Dr. Leo J. Schoeny, of New Orleans, and Dr. Maurice Williams, of New York. Dr. Howard A. Rusk, of New York, A.K.F. chairman, told of the urgency of the appeal and said: "The enthusiastic and generous response of the dental profession in the Help Korea Train campaign last year made it successful beyond our hopes. I feel confident in predicting that this most serious need will meet with the same outpouring of generosity."

HAWAII, CALIFORNIA SOCIETIES TO HOLD COMBINED MEETING IN HONOLULU

The largest dental meeting in the history of the Hawaiian Islands will be held June 15-18 in Honolulu as a combined annual session of the Hawaii Territorial Dental Society and the California State Dental Association. Headquarters for the meeting, which is expected to attract more than 800 visitors from California and other western states, is the Reef Hotel. Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., A.D.A. president, will be a keynote speaker. Other A.D.A. officials who will appear on the program are Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, secretary; Dr. John R. Abel, of Beverly Hills, trustee for the 13th district; Mr. Herbert B. Bain, of Chicago, director of the Bureau of Public Information, and Dr. Willard C. Fleming, of San Francisco, dean of the University of California College of Dentistry and a member of the A.D.A. Judicial Council. Dr. John H. Dawe, of Honolulu, secretary of the Hawaii society, and Dr. William S. Smith, of San Francisco, president-elect of the California society, are co-chairmen of the meeting.

CALL ISSUED FOR FILMS, EXHIBITS FOR 96TH ANNUAL SESSION

Individuals interested in presenting motion pictures or scientific exhibits at the 96th annual session of the A.D.A. in San Francisco, Oct. 17-20, may obtain application blanks upon request to the Council on Scientific Session at the A.D.A. Central Office in Chicago. Films or exhibits should be concerned with diagnosis, treatment or research related to the practice of dentistry or to the improvement of health. Applications must be received by June 17 so that all participants may be listed in the preliminary program which will appear in the August issue of The Journal of the A.D.A.

FAVORABLE ACTION ON DENTAL PROGRAM EXPECTED AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Favorable action on establishment of a permanent dental health program in the World Health Organization appears a likelihood at the forthcoming 8th World Health Assembly of WHO. The assembly will open May 10 in Mexico. At a meeting of the WHO executive board last January, approval of a dental health program was recommended and an appropriation for the establishment of the program was included in the budget to be adopted by the assembly. The action of the executive board followed a report made by a group of dental consultants at the request of the WHO director-general on needs in the field. The consultants proposed a program to include prevention, education, treatment and research. Inclusion of a fulltime dental health program in WHO has been urged by the A.D.A. and by the Federation Dentaire Internationale.

TWO NEW COURT DECISIONS CITE LEGALITY, SAFETY OF FLUORIDATION

To recent court decisions on fluoridation emphasized the measure's legality and safety. In LaPorte, Ind., Judge Alvin F. Marsh of the circuit court dismissed an injunction suit attempting to halt the city's fluoridation project, citing legal precedents set in similar court cases outside the state. In Newcastle, Pa., a petition for an injunction to prevent a water company from continuing fluoridation was also refused by Judge P. J. Braham of the court of common pleas. Commenting on the evidence given by the plaintiff's one witness, Charles Eliot Perkins, Judge Braham said: "...Charles Eliot Perkins, witness for the plaintiffs, was not convincing as an expert. The court may take judicial notice of the enormous advantage which was accrued to the public health from the work of devoted scientific men in laboratories, clinics and schools. In the great majority of cases this has been done by men thoroughly prepared, aware of the progress of their science, and thinking of themselves as only workers with others in the ranks of that science. Mr. Perkins on the contrary, with comparatively meager preparation, flouts ordinary procedures and recognized scientific men. His knowledge of the subject here in dispute is, like his cure for cancer, impulsive, erratic and unsound."

DR. McCLURE GIVEN SPECIAL AWARD FOR RESEARCH WORK ON FLUORIDES

Dr. Frank J. McClure, of the National Institute of Dental Research in Washington, D.C., has been given the Superior Service Award by

Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In making the award, Secretary Hobby said: "Dr. McClure's classical studies on the non-dental effects of fluorides in humans have resulted in general acknowledgment among scientists that the addition of fluorides to drinking water is a safe public health measure." Meanwhile, Bangor, the third largest city in Maine, has started fluoridating its water supply after a favorable referendum on the measure last October. The community's population is 31,558. In Dubuque, Iowa, which has been fluoridating its water supply since 1952, dental examinations of five-year-old children showed 50 per cent less decayed, missing and filled teeth than in the same age group in 1951.

DR. ISAAC SCHOUR NAMED DEAN OF U. OF ILLINOIS DENTAL SCHOOL

Dr. Isaac Schour, of Chicago, associate dean of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, has been named dean of the college, effective Sept. 1. Dr. Schour will succeed Dr. Allan G. Brodie who is resigning as dean but who will remain on the faculty as head of the department of orthodontics. Dr. Schour, who is 55, has been on the faculty of the school since 1924. He received his D.D.S. and his M.S. degree from Illinois, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

CHICAGO DENTAL SOCIETY INAUGURATES POST-PAYMENT PLAN

The Chicago Dental Society has announced inauguration of a dental care post-payment plan which will start May 1. Under the plan, which will be operated in cooperation with the First National Bank of Chicago, four per cent of the amount of each note will be placed in a reserve fund to cover possible losses. Cost to the patient is six per cent annually.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Carl A. Laughlin, of Clarksburg, W. Va., has been appointed a member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education by Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, Association president, to succeed Dr. Carl A. Frech, of Gary, Ind., who resigned. Dr. Laughlin, secretary of the West Virginia state board of dental examiners, will serve for the interim period ending with the 1955 annual session....For its annual "man of the year" award, the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, Calif., has selected a member of the dental profession, Dr. C. Edward Rutledge, outstanding civic leader....The 9th annual meeting of the American Academy of Dental Medicine has been scheduled for May 13-15 at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Reservations may be made with Dr. William M. Greenhut, secretary, 124 E. 84th St., New York....Career opportunities in dentistry are described in the Health Careers Guidebook, newly published by the National Health Council and distributed without charge to all the nation's secondary schools and junior colleges....Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, has been elected to the board of directors of the National Health Council.