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## ADA Newsletter - 05/01/1955

American Dental Association

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# Join the American-Korean Foundation



Vol. 8, No. 9 - May 1, 1955

## DOCTOR DRAFT ACT SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED, A.D.A. TELLS CONGRESS-- REPORTS SUPPLY OF DENTISTS IS ADEQUATE FOR 'ALL REASONABLE NEEDS'

There is a sufficient supply of dentists to meet all reasonable needs of the armed forces without recourse to a special dentist-physician draft act, representatives of the A.D.A. testified in Congress last week. Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, was the opening witness before the House Armed Services Committee considering a two-year continuation of the law which is scheduled to expire June 30. Dr. Earnest said that there is no justification for an extension of the law. The American Medical Association also opposed extension of the legislation. Representatives of the Department of Defense, however, contended that there was a "vital need" for the law, especially for physicians (see below). Both the A.D.A. and the A.M.A. also urged continuation of the \$100-a-month extra compensation for all dental and medical officers in the armed forces and both supported in principle an administration proposal for dental and medical military scholarships under which students would agree to serve at least three years in the armed forces in return for government-financed education. On the \$100-a-month proposal, also scheduled to end June 30, the Defense Department is recommending that the measure be continued only for career officers and young men subject to the regular draft who volunteer at least three years service. Spokesmen for the Association pointed out that the creation of two different rates of pay for dental officers in equal ranks would scarcely be conducive to morale and efficiency. At the conclusion of the hearings, Committee Chairman Vinson (D., Ga.) called an executive session of the committee for Tuesday (May 3) to consider its report for the House of Representatives.

### CHARGE "INEFFICIENT USE" OF PROFESSIONAL MANPOWER

In his statement, Dr. Earnest charged the Defense Department with inefficient use of professional health manpower in military service.

He predicted that the armed forces would make no real effort to adjust its dental programs realistically as long as the military could rely on the special draft law "to continue its extravagant use of dental manpower at the expense of the civilian community." Currently, he pointed out, the armed forces has more dental officers on duty in proportion to total personnel than at any time since the end of World War II, including the Korean conflict. Dr. Earnest said that the Association's views were in agreement with the Hoover Commission Task Force on Medical Services which stated: "We recommend that the special draft legislation for health personnel be permitted to expire. We believe that such legislation is unfair in principle and has in the past been abused in administration." Dr. Earnest told the congressmen that the dental profession was particularly critical of the fact that 1955 dental graduates would be denied immediate admission to active duty after graduation while older men were being called up. He cited the recent instance in which members of the dental school graduating classes were notified by the Air Force and Navy that they probably would not be called to active duty until mid-1956 while, at the same time, 330 dentists in their 40's were being called to immediate active service. Dr. Earnest said the military had achieved a "five-year record of lack of planning" and added that another extension of the special draft act would "perpetrate low morale in the dental corps and make improbable the orderly construction of a dental military health force which can serve the nation in a time of war." Mr. Bernard J. Conway, secretary, and Mr. Howard N. Greenblatt, assistant secretary, respectively, of the Council on Legislation, accompanied Dr. Earnest in his appearance before the committee.

#### REQUEST TO DELAY CALLS ON OLDER MEN REJECTED

Dr. Frank B. Berry, assistant secretary of defense for health and medical affairs, was directed to appear before the congressmen. In his absence, the deputy assistant secretary of defense, Dr. Edward A. Cushing, testified before the committee and affirmed that the Defense Department had turned down an urgent request from the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization to correct the situation. Dr. Cushing was critical of the A.D.A. and said that the Defense Department has now issued instructions so that the dental graduates will all be brought to active duty by Nov. 30. At that point, Mr. Conway, speaking on behalf of the Association, pointed out that the action of the Defense Department was a sharp departure from the usual custom of having the armed forces operate on "planned shortages" when a large source of young dentists will soon be available. He also noted for the record that it was the Health Resources Advisory Committee, and not the Association, that had made a request to the Defense Department that the calls on older dentists be deferred in view of the oncoming graduates.

#### PROPOSE STAND-BY LEGISLATION AS SUBSTITUTE FOR DRAFT BILL

The A.M.A. also criticized the Defense Department. "It has apparently become easier (for the Pentagon) to convince Congress every two years that the doctor draft law should be extended than to take steps to solve the basic problems involved," Dr. Walter B. Martin, of Norfolk, Va., A.M.A. president, said. A.M.A. representatives said they would not oppose stand-by legislation under which Priority III and IV physicians could be called under authority invoked only by the President in time of war or other national emergency. Stand-by legislation to be used only in a national emergency was also recommended by Brig. Gen. James A. McCallam (ret.), of Washington, D.C., past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. William B. Walsh, of Washington, D.C., president of the National Medical Veterans Society, said his organization supported extension of the law on the grounds that a percentage of specialists in all fields from the older age groups is needed to assure good medical care in the armed forces.

#### DRAFT NEEDED PRIMARILY FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS

Maj. Gen. George E. Armstrong, Army surgeon general, speaking for the Department of Defense, indicated strongly that the problem of securing professional health manpower was not nearly as urgent for dentists as for physicians. Without the doctor draft law, he said, the armed forces would be short only 525 dentists as compared with 2,700 physicians in the next two fiscal years, beginning June 30. Moreover, he said, there is a need particularly for specialists and experienced physicians who could be obtained only under the special draft act. "I might point out here that our problem with respect to dental procurement under the regular draft would not be as serious as the problem of procuring physicians," he said. "This is true mainly because we need only a small fraction of specialists in our dental service as compared with the percentage of experienced physicians required for our medical care." Gen. Armstrong, who was questioned closely by the congressmen, stressed the wide number of categories of civilians provided health care by medical officers, and suggested an investigation of voluntary health insurance for dependents of military personnel to ease the burden. Out of an estimated ratio of approximately three medical officers for each 1,000 persons, he said, there is actually only about one medical officer for each 1,000 military men, the balance providing health care for retired personnel, a large number of civilian federal employees and military dependents. No estimate was given for the extent of dental care being provided non-military personnel. At the end of the Defense Department testimony, Chairman Vinson directed Hugh M. Milton, assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve forces, to present a report to the committee by May 15 on a non-profit health insurance plan for military dependents.

#### QUESTION RATIO OF DENTAL OFFICERS TO TROOP STRENGTH

In its figures on estimated needs of the armed forces for dental officers in the next two fiscal years, the Defense Department said 3,802 dental officers will be needed as replacements. Col. Manley G. Morrison, chief of the manpower control branch in the office of the Army surgeon general, said the Defense Department's estimates were based on a ratio of two dentists per 1,000 persons. Asked why the armed forces

ratio for dental officers was now 1.9 per 1,000 when it was only 1.7 during the Korean hostilities, Col. Morrison said that "to my knowledge we have never requested below two per 1,000 ratio." This was in contrast to the Hoover Medical Task Force recommendation for a 1.7 ratio ceiling for dental officers and to the fact that the ratio for medical officers has been reduced from a five per 1,000 level to a three per 1,000 base over a 10-year period. At one point in the hearings, Rep. Hebert (D., La.) commended Dr. Earnest for his "very able" statement on behalf of the A.D.A.

#### DR. CREIG FILES TESTIMONY ON MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Ralph E. Creig, of Cleveland, a member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, said in a filed statement that the A.D.A. favored in principle a bill which would grant scholarships to dental students who would promise to accept later extended military service. Dr. Creig, however, pointed out that he did not believe the bill would solve permanently the procurement difficulties of the armed forces. "Whether they (the scholarship recipients) will remain as career officers depends in large measure on whether the services are prepared to analyze the causes which seem to make a military career unattractive to many members of the profession and are prepared to undertake corrective measures to make such a career as attractive and as satisfying as it might be," he said.

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#### A.D.A. TO TESTIFY ON FEDERAL GRANTS FOR DENTAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The need for construction and expansion funds for dental schools will be discussed by representatives of the A.D.A. who will testify Friday (May 6) before the Senate Labor subcommittee on health legislation. The hearings will be on a bill introduced by Sen. Hill (D., Ala.) calling for a five-year, \$250 million program of federal grants for construction to medical schools. A measure providing for grants to dental schools as well as medical schools has been presented in the House by Rep. Fogarty (D., R.I.). Representing the Association at the hearings will be Dr. Creig, Mr. Conway, and Dr. Shailer Peterson, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Education.

#### HOUSE PASSES BILL ENDING 'LIFE-LONG' DENTAL CARE FOR VETERANS

The House of Representatives has approved and sent to the Senate a bill limiting outpatient dental care in the Veterans Administration to a one-time completion basis, and requiring initial application for treatment within one year of the veteran's discharge from military service. Proposals for unlimited dental care for the individual veteran and a two-year limit for applications were eliminated from the bill in committee. The limitations were recommended by the A.D.A.

#### 'EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION' OF ULTRASONIC DRILL RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL

The use of ultrasonic dental instruments should be withheld until their practicability and safety is proved by "extensive investigation." This was recommended by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research in a report published in the May issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association. "Until there is sufficient evidence available in the form of published and confirmed professional and scientific reports," the statement said, "the Council on Dental Research believes it is premature for any general acceptance of the ultrasonic method of cavity preparation and of ultrasonic therapy in the treatment of oral disease. Both of these uses are in the experimental state and patients should be so advised." At the same time, The Journal, in an editorial, sharply criticized promotion of the devices to the public by a manufacturer of the equipment. "The employment in dentistry of the magnetostriction (ultrasonic) principle is still definitely in the experimental stage and any effort to create a popular demand for its use is both unjustified by accomplished fact and contrary to the best interest of the public," the editorial said. The Council's report cited the scarcity of published data pertaining to its use on humans and noted that at least one study had shown severe damage to the tooth structure of guinea pigs after use of an ultrasonic device. (See A.D.A. News Letter, April 1, 1955.) Commenting on this study, the Council said: "Severe pulp changes and alterations in dentin formation were not present in the incisors where cavities were prepared with a rapidly rotating disk but were found in the teeth where cavities were cut with the ultrasonic handpiece."

## **SIX-SOCIETY CONFERENCE HELD TO STUDY LABOR DENTAL CARE PROGRAMS**

The dental profession's role in labor dental care programs was the subject of a regional conference of six east coast constituent dental societies April 18-20. Participating in the meeting, held in conjunction with the New Jersey State Dental Society's annual session, were representatives of the New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia societies. Dr. R. H. Friedrich, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Health, represented the A.D.A. The A.D.A. has recommended regional cooperation among dental societies since union jurisdictions, and consequently their health programs, often cross a number of state boundaries.

## **DENTAL TRADE AND LABORATORY GROUPS MEET WITH A.D.A. COUNCIL**

Representatives of the dental industry and the A.D.A. met at the Central Office April 17-18 to discuss a plan developed by the National Association of Dental Laboratories for certifying laboratory technicians and to review a proposed laboratory fair trade practice code. In addition to members of the Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, participants in the conference included representatives of the N.A.D.L., the American Dental Trade Association, the Dental Manufacturers of America and the Dental Dealers of America.

## **20 CHICAGO DENTAL LABORATORIES ENJOINED FROM DEALING WITH PUBLIC**

An injunction prohibiting 20 Chicago dental laboratories from dealing directly with the public was signed April 22 by Judge Frank M. Padden of the Superior Court. The decree resulted from a suit filed in 1950 by the Chicago Dental Society which charged the laboratories with illegally examining patients, and repairing, manufacturing and selling dentures. The laboratories are expected to appeal the decree. More than 3,500 pages of testimony were taken from more than 100 witnesses during the lawsuit.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN-KOREAN FOUNDATION REACH \$9,286**

A total of \$9,286.75 in contributions to the special dental fund of the American-Korean Foundation has been received from 3,642 A.D.A. members as of April 27, it was reported by Dr. Oren Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations. Dr. Oliver and Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, D.C., A.D.A. president, are co-chairmen of a special campaign to raise funds for the rehabilitation of dentistry in war-damaged Korea. A letter asking all A.D.A. members to support this special campaign was mailed in early April. The campaign was officially launched April 5 at a White House luncheon at which A.D.A. officials and officers of the Foundation were guests of President Eisenhower.

## **FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON DENTAL SCHOOL TO OPEN IN FALL OF 1956**

Plans for the opening of a new school of dentistry in the fall of 1956 at the Teaneck, N.J., campus of the Fairleigh Dickinson College have been announced by Mr. Edward T. Williams, chairman of the board of trustees of the college. Earlier, plans were announced for the opening of a new dental school at Seton Hall University at Jersey City. According to Mr. Williams, the first class at the Fairleigh Dickinson College will consist of 35 students. A science building is now under construction on the Fairleigh Dickinson campus. It will include space for a dental clinic, biochemistry and physics laboratories, and diagnostic, x-ray, surgery, anesthesia, oral hygiene and prosthetic departments. Following opening of the Fairleigh Dickinson school, the School of Dental Hygiene, now located at the college's Rutherford campus, will be moved to Teaneck. A third new school, that of the University of West Virginia at Morgantown, is also expected to begin operation in the fall of 1956.

## **W. A. SUBERG RESIGNS FROM A.D.A. BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF**

Mr. Walter A. Suberg, A.D.A. associate business manager, has resigned effective May 1, it was announced today by Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary. Mr. Suberg, who joined the staff of the Association as assistant business manager in 1950, plans to go into private business. His duties will be assumed by Mr. Wayne Burmeister, who was appointed assistant business manager last January.