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News Letter

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Vol. 8, No. 12 -- June 15, 1955

HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTES TO LOWER AGE CEILING IN DOCTOR-DRAFT TO 45 AS SENATE COMMITTEE TENTATIVELY APPROVES TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF LAW

The House Armed Services Committee yesterday (June 14) voted to reduce from 51 to 45 years the maximum age at which dentists and physicians can be called into the armed forces under the doctor-draft law. The committee's action came in a second look at the bill for a two-year extension of the measure which is scheduled to expire June 30. Chairman Vinson (D., Ga.) said an amendment lowering the age ceiling would be presented on the floor of the House when the bill is being considered. The bill had been held up in the House Rules Committee after its approval by the Armed Services Committee. The action of the House committee came a day after the Senate Armed Services Committee tentatively approved a continuation of the doctor-draft law for two years.

EXTENSION OF LAW TERMED "UNWISE," "UNREALISTIC"

present form as "unwise and unrealistic." Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, said all reasonable needs of the armed forces for dental manpower could be met under the regular draft law without recourse to special legislation. He noted that the ratio of dental officers is authorized at two for every 1,000 persons under the military program, while the civilian community has a ratio of one active dentist for every 1,900 persons. "At the present time, therefore," he said, "the military requires more than seven per cent of the available active dentists to care for less than two per cent of the nation's population." He also pointed out that the military dental services were able to provide adequate dental care to troops during the Korean hostilities at a strength of 1.7 dental officers for every 1,000 persons in active military service. "Since the cessation of the Korean hostilities, however, the staffing pattern of the dental corps has increased to about 1.9 per 1,000," he said. Dr. Earnest cited the recommendation of the Hoover Commission medical task force that a ratio of 1.7 be adopted. "The dental corps would then have a healthy reserve pool of dentists available and could help to eliminate any future necessity for a discriminatory special draft system," he said. Also appearing for the Association were Mr. Bernard J. Conway, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Legislation, and Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Health. Representatives of the American Medical Association also testified in opposition to the law.

In testimony before the Senate committee June 9, representatives of the Association strongly opposed continuation of the law in its

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS INCLUDED IN TOTAL

earlier House hearings, representatives of the Defense Department again contended that there would be a shortage of approximately 525 dental officers for the next two fiscal years, beginning July 1, if the law were not extended. Again also, a purported need for 215 U.S. Public Health Service dental officers was included in the total. Again too, the Defense Department noted that "our problem with respect to dental procurement under the regular draft would not be as serious as the problem of procuring physicians" because "only a small fraction of specialists are needed in our dental service compared with the percentage of experienced physicians required for our medical service." The principal spokesman was Dr. Frank B. Berry, assistant secretary of defense for health and medical affairs.

Sen. Russell, in an opening statement at the hearings, said the President strongly urged favorable action on the measure. As at the

V.A. OUTPATIENT DENTAL CARE BILL CLEARS CONGRESS; MEASURE URGED BY A.D.A.

A bill to place permanent restrictions on outpatient dental care for veterans in the Veterans Administration program was before President Eisenhower for signature this week. The measure, which has been strongly urged by the A.D.A., calls for a one-year cut-off date for applications for treatment following the veteran's discharge from military service. It provides for actual proof of service-connection of a dental defect and also limits treatment to care of the defect. The Senate passed the bill without amendment June 6 after its unanimous approval by the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Previously, it had cleared the House after efforts to extend the cut-off date were defeated. While provisions of the bill were being carried out by administrative directives in the V.A. and by a "rider" attached to the V.A. budget, enactment of the measure incorporates these provisions into permanent legislation and prevents a return to the former system of unending dental care at government expense for the individual veteran.

SENATE APPROVES \$ 2 MILLION FOR DENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Senate voted to approve \$ 2,136,000 for dental health and research activities of the U.S. Public Health Service. The budget figure was the same as that adopted by the House although the Senate Appropriations Committee increased by about \$ 22 million the figures for research into other diseases. The proposed dental appropriations were \$ 146,000 more than for the current budget.

Another bill carrying a provision of significance to dentistry was in a joint conference committee of the House and Senate this week after the

POSTERS, KITS FOR 1956 DENTAL HEALTH WEEK TO BE AVAILABLE IN JULY

Plans were being completed this week for the distribution of posters and guidance and promotional materials for the 1956 observance of National Children's Dental Health Week. The dates for the event are Feb. 5 through 11. In response to requests from societies for more time in which to organize and plan their participation in the observance, the material will be made available much earlier this year. Posters will be ready for shipment from the Bureau of Public Information the first part of July and the portfolios of other material will be available for distribution the latter part of the month. As the initial step, questionnaires have been sent to secretaries of state dental societies requesting the names of officials in charge of the program in each state.

TOTAL A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP NEARING NEW HIGH; REACHES 82,257

Total membership in the A.D.A. climbed toward an all-time high at the end of May, reaching 82,257. It was the highest total ever attained for the first five months of the year and only 239 short of the record high of 82,496 set at the end of 1954. Forty-four constituent societies and the five federal dental services reported membership gains over May 31, 1954. The number of fully privileged members in the new report totaled 72,440 (up 2,537), including 68,785 active (up 2,386) and 3,655 life members (up 251). Figures for other categories were: affiliate, 201; associate, 15; honorary, 12, and student, 9,589.

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY FORMS CORPORATION TO HANDLE PREPAID DENTAL PLANS

The California State Dental Association last week announced formation of a non-profit corporation to offer prepaid dental care to unions and other groups. The new corporation, called the California Dental Association Service Plan, will provide a mechanism for handling such programs as the one now operated by the Continental Casualty Co. for the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union and the Pacific Maritime Association. (See A.D.A. News Letter, Nov. 1, 1954.) Under California law, the corporation must be approved by 25 per cent of the state's 8,800 licensed dentists.

RELIEF FUND TOTAL PASSES \$111,000 MARK AS DRIVE ENTERS FINAL WEEKS

The 1954-55 Relief Fund campaign moved into its final two weeks on June 15 with a total of \$ 111,118 in contributions. The mid-June total was more than \$ 5,000 ahead of last year's final figure, and more than \$ 11,000 over the current campaign's \$ 100,000 goal. A final tabulation of contributions by constituent societies and by federal services will be published in the July 15 issue of the A.D.A. News Letter.

NEW BROCHURE OF COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND OF FLUORIDE OPPONENTS ISSUED

A revised and expanded edition of "Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation" was issued this week by the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information. The mimeographed brochure consists of verbatim excerpts from various sources on some of the principal opponents of the public health measure such as Dr. Charles Betts, E. H. Bronner, V. O. Hurme, Dr. Royal Lee, Dr. Leo Spira, Miss Lillian Van de Vere and C. E. Perkins. Included with this issue of the A.D.A. News Letter is a reprint of a recent editorial from The Hartford (Conn.) Courant which was published in the June issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association and entitled "Fluoridation Attracts a Collection of Quacks." Reprints of the editorial in limited quantities and copies of the brochure may be obtained from the Bureau of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

A.M.A. APPROVAL OF FLUORIDATION UNDERScoreD BY DR. GEORGE LULL

It has been established "overwhelmingly" that fluoridation "is not only a constructive public health measure but it is as safe as is humanly possible to determine." This was the statement of Dr. George F. Lull, of Chicago, secretary and general manager of the American Medical Association, in an editorial published in the June issue of the A.M.A. magazine, Today's Health. After examining and refuting the various arguments raised against fluoridation, Dr. Lull took particular issue with the "impression" that the A.M.A. did not endorse the measure. "Both the A.M.A. Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and the A.M.A. Council on Foods and Nutrition expressed themselves definitely to the effect that fluoridation is safe," Dr. Lull pointed out. "If this is not an endorsement -- what is it?" Reprints of the editorial will be available from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information by July 1.

A.D.A. PUBLISHES NEW HANDBOOK ON DENTAL MATERIALS

A new comprehensive handbook entitled "A.D.A. Specifications for Dental Materials" has been published by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research. Designed for use by the practicing dentist, dental schools, dental research laboratories and manufacturers, the 76-page publication will be issued annually. The major portion of the new manual is devoted to the work of the Association's research staff at the National Bureau of Standards, and was prepared by Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, A.D.A. senior research associate at the bureau, and Mr. W. T. Sweeney, chief of the bureau's dental research section. The handbook includes all 12 of the Association's specifications for dental materials, a list of certified dental materials, a bibliography of publications and motion pictures on dental research produced at the Bureau of Standards, and some hints on the handling of dental materials. Copies may be obtained for \$1 each from the A.D.A. Order Department, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

A.D.A. TESTING PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN NEW BUREAU OF STANDARDS' FILM

A new color sound film on dental materials has been produced at the National Bureau of Standards in cooperation with the A.D.A. The film, which describes the dental material testing program of the Association research staff at the bureau, is entitled "Dental Materials: Specification and Certification," The film will be available from the A.D.A. film library in August.

COUNCIL TO HOLD SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON DENTAL CARE PROGRAMS FOR LABOR

The A.D.A. Council on Dental Health has announced plans for a special conference on dental health care plans financed by union-management health and welfare funds. The council met at A.D.A. headquarters in Chicago on June 3 and 4 with Dr. David W. Brock, of St. Louis, council chairman, presiding. The conference, tentatively scheduled for early December, will consider the history of health and welfare funds and their use in financing dental health care programs. Purpose of the conference, Dr. Brock said, is to provide state societies with technics for developing sound dental health care programs. The council also drafted preliminary plans for its 6th National Dental Health Conference, which will be held on October 15 immediately preceding the Association's annual session in San Francisco. The subject this year will be dental health care programs for children.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY ISSUES MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

DDS, a monthly four-page news digest of the Los Angeles County Dental Society, made its first appearance this month. The editor is Dr. Hugh D. Wilson and the associate editor is Dr. Howard V. Jones.

SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR ALLIED, ASSOCIATED GROUPS AT A.D.A. SESSION

More than a score of allied and associated groups will meet in conjunction with the 96th annual session of the A.D.A. to be held Oct. 17 through 20 in San Francisco. Plans are being made for a record-breaking attendance at the four-day session, according to Dr. Francis J. Herz, of San Francisco, chairman of the general committee on local arrangements. Reservations are available through the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, 61 Grove St., San Francisco. Reservations may be obtained by filling out the application form in The Journal of the American Dental Association. Meeting places for the allied and associated groups were announced this week. The hotel assignments and meeting dates of the groups are as follows:

American Academy of Gold Foil Operators, St. Francis, Oct. 14-15
American Academy of the History of Dentistry, Mark Hopkins, Oct. 14
American Academy of Oral Roentgenology, St. Francis, Oct. 14-15
American Academy of Pedodontics, Clift, Oct. 12-14
American Academy of Periodontology, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 13-15
American Association of Dental Editors, Fairmont, Oct. 15
American Association of Dental Examiners, Mark Hopkins, Oct. 14-15
American Association of Dental Schools, Fairmont, Oct. 15
American Association of Public Health Dentists, Sir Francis Drake, Oct. 16
American College of Dentists, Fairmont, Oct. 16
American Dental Assistants Association, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 17-20
American Dental Hygienists Association, Clift, Oct. 15-20
American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Sir Francis Drake, Oct. 15-16
American Denture Society, St. Francis, Oct. 14-15
American Society of Dentistry for Children, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 14-16
Association of American Women Dentists, Bellevue, Oct. 16-17
International College of Dentists, St. Francis, Oct. 15-17
National Association of Seventh-Day Adventist Dentists, Huntington, Oct. 13-16
Alpha Omega Fraternity, St. Francis, Oct. 16
Delta Sigma Delta Fraternity, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 14-17
Psi Omega Fraternity, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 17
Xi Psi Phi Fraternity, Sheraton-Palace, Oct. 17
Upsilon Alpha Fraternity, Women's Club, Oct. 14-15

FUND TO AID KOREAN DENTISTRY INCREASES TO \$11,286

Nearly \$200 in contributions to the special dental fund of the American-Korean Foundation was received during the first two weeks of June, bringing the total to date to \$11,286, according to Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations. More than 4,000 U.S. dentists have contributed to the fund which will be used for the rehabilitation of dental education and dental services in South Korea. Among recent contributions was a check for \$42 from members of the Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Puerto Rico.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dedication ceremonies will be held Sept. 18 for the new School of Dentistry building at the College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, Calif. Dr. Willard Fleming, of San Francisco, dean of the School of Dentistry, University of California, will be the principal speaker....The Territory of Hawaii now accepts the certificate of the National Board of Dental Examiners in lieu of the theoretical portion of its licensure examination. Twenty-nine states and Alaska had previously accepted the certificate....The New Britain (Conn.) Dental Society has voted to supply members of the 1955 New Britain High School football squad with mouth protectors without charge. The squad is expected to number 60....The Eighth State Secretaries' Management Conference has been set for June 11-13, 1956, at A.D.A. headquarters in Chicago....Dr. Thomas J. Hill, of Cleveland, former chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics and honorary member of the A.D.A., has been presented a plaque of commendation by the Ohio State Dental Association and has been made an honorary life member of the Cleveland Dental Society.