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The logo features the letters 'ada' in a stylized, lowercase font, enclosed within a circle. To the right of the circle, the words 'News Letter' are written in a large, elegant, cursive script. A horizontal dotted line runs across the page, passing behind the 'News Letter' text and the circle.

ADA News Letter

Vol. 8, No. 13 -- July 1, 1955

DENTIST-PHYSICIAN DRAFT ACT IS EXTENDED FOR TWO MORE YEARS -- LOWERING OF AGE CEILING FROM 51 TO 46 YEARS IS MAJOR CHANGE

The dentist-physician draft act has been extended for two more years, to June 30, 1957. A major change, however, is that the draft now applies only to men under 46 years of age. Previously the age ceiling was 51 years. The extension was voted by Congress along with an extension of the regular draft act. It was signed by President Eisenhower yesterday. An attempt on June 28 to kill the extension of the doctor draft was defeated in the House of Representatives by a vote of 221 to 171. (See below.) Beginning today, all dentists who have attained the age of 46 years are automatically exempt from induction into the armed forces. Also exempted under the new law are dentists 35 years of age or older who have been previously rejected for commissions in the armed forces because of physical reasons. The \$100 a month bonus pay for all dental officers was continued. The extension also retains the same four priorities for calling men to active duty as those in the old law.

BILL ATTACKED ON HOUSE FLOOR AS NEEDLESS DISCRIMINATION

out opposition the compromise measure agreed upon by House and Senate conferees which included the 46-year-old age ceiling. However, when the measure was presented to the House, Chairman Smith (D., Va.) of the House Rules Committee led a floor fight against the doctor draft as needless. He said the military forces were demanding more doctors in peacetime than were in active service during the Korean hostilities and added there was little reason for discrimination against doctors as a class. A motion to recommit the bill to a conference committee and, in effect, kill the measure, was offered by Rep. Mason (R., Ill.). Out of a total of 392 votes cast, the motion was defeated by a 50-vote margin. Rep. Long (D., La.), only dentist member of Congress, was actively opposed to the extension. Shortly after rejecting the motion to return the bill to committee, the House passed the act by a vote of 388 to 5.

The extension of the special draft act cleared Congress June 28, only two days before it was scheduled to expire. The Senate passed with-

MAXIMUM DRAFT AGE OF 41 SOUGHT BY HOUSE CONFEREES

approved by the House Armed Services Committee early in May. While action on the bill was frozen in the House, the Senate added the doctor draft to the regular draft bill as a separate title, and approved the combined measure June 16. The issue of age was threshed out by the conference committee from both houses. Conferees from the House of Representatives strongly attempted to lower the draft age for dentists and physicians to 41 while the conferees from the Senate insisted on retaining the 51-year-old age ceiling, finally compromising on 46 as the maximum draft age. The Department of Defense had contended there would be a shortage of 525 dental officers in the next two years if the act were not extended. Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee, in defending the new bill, said only those dentists and physicians who have never served on active duty will be ordered into active service. Some non-veteran dentists in Priority III up to the age of 45 have already been called. The lower age ceiling was a victory for the A.D.A. which had vigorously opposed an extension of the old act which made dentists up to age 51 years draft liable.

The doctor draft bill had not been before the House earlier because the Rules Committee had refused to clear it for floor action after it was

A.D.A. REPRESENTATIVE URGES ENACTMENT OF RETIREMENT FUND BILLS

Legislation to encourage the establishment of voluntary retirement funds for self-employed persons would remedy an obvious tax inequity, the chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation told the House Ways and Means Committee this week. Dr. Paul E. Jones, of Farmville, N.C., testified at hearings on two bills (H.R. 9 and 10) that would permit limited exemption from income taxes on payments made into individual retirement systems. Pointing out that these tax incentives are already provided for contributors to pension plans of business concerns, Dr. Jones said that the A.D.A. House of Delegates had gone on record in favor of the program. Dr. Jones estimated that there are approximately 75,000 dentists in private practice and thus self-employed. "The enactment of these bills would strengthen our economy by encouraging the vast number of self-employed individuals to obtain economic protection in their advanced years," he said. The bills are sponsored by Rep. Jenkins (R., Ohio) and Rep. Keogh (D., N.Y.). They propose that self-employed individuals be given a tax deferment on a sum up to 10 per cent of their annual earnings, but not over \$7,500 a year, which can be set aside for retirement income after age 65. The funds set aside would be subject to the existing federal income taxes at the time of withdrawal. The purpose of the bills is to enable self-employed persons to provide for their own retirement during periods of high earnings. At the hearings, Treasury Secretary George Humphrey said that while the Treasury Department was "sympathetic" to the proposals, they should not be approved at this time because of tax losses to the Treasury, estimated at from \$90 million to \$3.5 billion annually. Also appearing on behalf of the measures were representatives of the American Medical Association, American Bar Association, American Farm Bureau Federation and representatives of other groups of self-employed individuals. Accompanying Dr. Jones at the hearings was Mr. Howard Greenblatt, of Chicago, assistant secretary of the Council on Legislation.

\$50 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR DENTAL SCHOOLS

In other testimony in Congress, Association representatives urged that dental schools and dental hygiene schools be made eligible for

federal grants similar to those proposed for medical schools in House bill, H.R. 4743. Dr. Shailer Peterson, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Education, told a subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce that the Association recommends a five-year, \$50 million program of matching grants for construction and improvement of dental and dental hygiene schools. Additionally, he said, the A.D.A. proposes that the agency for administering the grant program include dental representation and be named the Council on Medical and Dental Educational Facilities. Earlier, the Association presented similar testimony before a Senate committee on a companion measure. (See A.D.A. News Letter, May 16, 1955). At the House hearings, Dr. Peterson was accompanied by Mr. Bernard Conway, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Legislation.

F.T.C. CONSIDERS 'FAIR TRADE' CODE FOR DENTAL LABORATORIES

Adoption and enforcement of "appropriate trade practice rules" for the dental laboratory industry would be a "forward step," Dr. Walter E. Dundon, of Chicago, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, told the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., last week. Dr. Dundon was a witness at a hearing on a proposed trade practice code which had been suggested by the National Association of Dental Laboratories. Dr. Dundon said that the code, as proposed, needed modification in order to "describe accurately the relation that exists between dentist and dental laboratory." Laboratory technicians are engaged in fabrication and processing of prosthetic appliances, Dr. Dundon pointed out, rather than in the "design" which is the dentist's function. To curb illegally operating laboratories, Dr. Dundon urged inclusion of a section making it "an unfair trade practice for any member of the industry to solicit trade or business from the general public by any means...." Adoption of this section, he said, would "in a single stroke provide a greater measure of economic stability to the legitimate laboratory craft and an effective weapon against those illegal dental laboratory operators who are a threat to the dental health of the American public." No announcement was made by the F.T.C. as to when final action will be taken on the code. Other A.D.A. representatives at the hearings were Mr. Bernard J. Beazley, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, and Mr. Bernard J. Conway, secretary of the Council on Legislation, also of Chicago.

"PUBLIC DENTURISTS" BILL DEFEATED IN ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATURE

A bill to permit dental laboratory technicians in Illinois to provide services directly to the public was defeated last week in the state legislature. The bill proposed the licensing of a new group to be known as "public denturists." The "denturists" would be qualified by two years of training in a "trade school" and the trade would be open to anyone over the age of 16. The measure was sponsored by a former speaker of the House, and was approved by a vote of 15 to 6 in committee. After this committee action, the Illinois State Dental Society and the Chicago Dental Society carried on a state-wide program to acquaint the public of the inherent danger in this type of legislation. Both Chicago and downstate newspapers carried editorials condemning the bill as a menace to the public. Subsequently the bill was killed by a decisive vote when called up for consideration in the House of Representatives. In an editorial entitled, "Dangerous 'Dentistry'", the Chicago Daily News pointed to the extensive training of dentists and declared that "the standards of dental practice should not be undermined by the back door." "It is in the interest of the public health," the News said, "that extensive dental work should not be undertaken except on the advice and direction of dentists fully qualified to treat diseases of the mouth tissues and recognize general systemic ailments with symptoms in the mouth." The Chicago American, noting that the dental profession was opposing passage of the bill, said: "The objections to this bill are entirely justified. Fitting patients with artificial teeth is an important and delicate phase of dental practice....The 'denturists' might sometimes sell false teeth a little cheaper than they can usually be had through a dentist's office, but they would often sell the risk of ruined health along with them."

BILL BACKED BY HANDFUL OF DENTAL LABORATORIES

Chicago newspapers pointed out that the bill was an attempt by a handful of dental laboratories to by-pass a recent court injunction issued against 20 Chicago laboratories found guilty of illegally examining patients, and repairing, manufacturing and selling dentures. The injunction was signed April 22 following five years of hearings in a suit brought by the Chicago Dental Society. (See A.D.A. News Letter, May 1, 1955.) The decree is being appealed to the state supreme court. "Essentially, the bill is an attempt to circumvent a decision by Cook County Superior Judge Frank M. Padden enjoining dental laboratories from dealing directly with the public," the Chicago Sun-Times said. "To the credit of most dental laboratories, they are perfectly willing to abide by the present law....The legislature as a whole should heed the Illinois and Chicago dental societies and reject this terrible bill."

IDAHO HIGH COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF TECHNICIANS

Meanwhile, in Idaho, the state supreme court ruled that dental technicians may work on artificial dentures directly for the public. In an unprecedented ruling, the court held that the technicians may not do intra-oral work but may reline, repair and duplicate dentures. In essence, the court stated that the laboratory technicians had been doing this work for years under a 1921 law and their work was not "inherently injurious to the public health, safety or morals." The court thus declared unconstitutional a 1953 law which specifically limited the technicians to work authorized by a licensed dentist.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SIGNS V.A. OUTPATIENT DENTAL CARE BILL

President Eisenhower June 16 signed into law a bill to place permanent restrictions on the V.A. outpatient dental program. The measure, strongly advocated by the A.D.A., sets up a one-year cut-off date on most applications for treatment following a veteran's discharge from service and limits most veterans to one-time treatment for service-connected dental defects. The measure is now Public Law 83, 84th Congress.

WARNING ISSUED AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DENTAL INSTITUTE

Dr. Gerald Leatherman, of London, secretary general of the Federation Dentaire Internationale, has issued a warning against the so-called International Dental Institute. In a letter to the A.D.A. and other national dental associations throughout the world, Dr. Leatherman said the Institute has been soliciting subscriptions from dentists. He reported that the organization was investigated by Scotland Yard and found to be fraudulent.

FLUORIDATION VOTED FOR 1,250,000 PERSONS IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO

The Metropolitan Council of Toronto has voted to fluoridate the city's water supply which serves 1,250,000 persons. Metropolitan Toronto includes 13 municipalities. Immediately following the council's action, one of the communities, Forest Hill Village, began legal action in an effort to block the procedure. Also in Canada, it was announced that Halifax, Nova Scotia, has ordered fluoridation equipment and will begin fluoridating before the end of the year. In the United States meanwhile, fluoridation programs were started in three communities and halted in ten during recent weeks. St. Maries, Idaho; Frayser, Tenn., and Huron, S.D., began fluoridating their water, and Greenville, S.C., discontinued its fluoride operations. Greenville, which started its program in January of 1954, supplies water to nine other communities. Nearly 160,000 persons were affected by the action which resulted from a referendum in which fluoridation was defeated.

POPULAR SCIENCE ARTICLE PRAISES FLUORIDE BENEFITS

An outstanding article on fluoridation is published in the July issue of Popular Science Monthly. It was written by Herbert Yahraes. Entitled "10-Year Test Proves Fluoride Saves Teeth," the article reviews the evidence for the measure's safety and effectiveness and concludes in the words of Dr. James H. Shaw, of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine: "No other health procedure in the annals of history has been so thoroughly tested in field trials under the widest variety of controlled circumstances."

PARENTS URGE FLUORIDATION IN MEMORY OF DECEASED SON

A request that contributions to a fund for fluoridation be made in lieu of floral tributes in memory of their deceased son, Tor, was made recently by Mr. and Mrs. A. Victor Peterson, Jr., of New Canaan, Conn. In a front page story published in the June 2 issue of New Canaan Advertiser, the Petersons asked that a "Tor Memorial Fund for Fluoridation" be established in New Canaan. Mr. Peterson was quoted: "This would be the best tribute I can think of in memory of our son. Perhaps, in this small measure, our misfortune may thus contribute to the welfare of other New Canaan children, now and for generations to come." Address of the fund was given as Postoffice Box 132, New Canaan, Conn.

\$3 MILLION LESS SPENT ON NEWSPAPER DENTIFRICE ADVERTISING IN 1954

Dentifrice manufacturers spent 38 per cent less for national newspaper advertising last year than they did in 1953, while total national newspaper advertising declined only 1-1/2 per cent for the same period, Advertising Age reported recently. The dentifrice expenditures were just over \$8 million in 1954 as compared with \$11 million the previous year. A report in the June 26 issue of Editor and Publisher showed that 60 per cent of dentifrice advertising in newspapers was purchased by two companies, Colgate-Palmolive, for Colgate tooth paste, tooth powder and dental cream (\$3,335,000), and Proctor & Gamble, for Gleem tooth paste (\$1,512,000).

MORE THAN 1,000 ATTEND HAWAII-CALIFORNIA MEETING IN HONOLULU

More than 1,000 persons attended the joint meeting of the Hawaii Territorial Dental Society and the California State Dental Association held in mid-June on famed Waikiki Beach in Honolulu. Included were nearly 600 dentists and approximately 500 dental assistants, hygienists, exhibitors and guests. Both Dr. Mervyn I. Conner, retiring president of the Hawaiian Society, and Dr. William S. Smith, president of the California Association, were enthusiastic over the success of the meeting and predicted that similar joint meetings would be held in the near future.

PAN-PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN HAWAII NEXT OCTOBER

All U.S. Dentists are invited to attend the Pan-Pacific Dental Conference which will be held in Honolulu Oct. 24 and 25 immediately following the A.D.A. annual session in San Francisco. The conference is being sponsored by the Honolulu County Dental Society. In addition to scientific sessions there will be numerous social events and special tours of the outlying islands for all visitors, it was announced by Dr. Floyd A. Sandberg, of Honolulu, chairman of the meeting. Full information regarding the conference may be obtained from the Pan-Pacific Dental Conference, 3124 E. 14th St., Oakland 1, Calif.