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News Letter

Vol. 9, No. 4 - February 3, 1956

A.D.A. ASKS \$3,055,000 INCREASE IN DENTAL RESEARCH APPROPRIATION, SEEKS AID OF ALL DENTISTS IN INFORMING CONGRESS OF SERIOUS NEED

The American Dental Association will ask the Congress of the United States to more than double next year's appropriation for the National Institute of Dental Research in an effort to secure a more realistic share of federal research funds to combat dental disease.

Dr. Paul E. Jones, of Farmville, N.C., chairman of the Association's Council on Legislation, said that the A.D.A. would formally ask the Congress to boost to \$6,026,000 the appropriation for the National Institute of Dental Research. This represents a boost of \$3,055,000 in the amount recommended for next year by the Bureau of the Budget. All of the increase, Dr. Jones pointed out, would go for research purposes, and most of it would be for grants to dental schools and other non-governmental institutions.

Hearings on appropriations for health research grants are now underway in the House of Representatives by the Health, Education and Welfare subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. The American Dental Association is expected to present testimony during hearings Feb. 16 and 17 at Washington, D.C.

All dental societies and all individual dentists are urged to communicate at once with their congressmen, informing them of the serious need for an expanded program of dental research as the only practical means to help reduce the vast toll of dental diseases affecting most of the nation's population.

The proposed budget for fiscal 1957, that is, the year beginning on July 1, recommends a total appropriation of \$2,971,000 for the National Institute of Dental Research. This is an increase of approximately \$750,000 over the total in dental funds appropriated for this year. This increase, however, would still leave the dental research institute with only a comparatively tiny share of the total federal funds for health research. As a matter of fact, the increases recommended for the other six national institutes of health were so large that dentistry, even with a \$750,000 boost, would still be receiving less than 2.5 per cent of the total.

In view of the almost universal incidence of dental disease, this appropriation is far from realistic, Dr. Jones declared.

A special bulletin giving detailed figures on past and proposed appropriations for dental research as compared with other health research will be sent to all members of the A.D.A. next week. Each member will be asked to send his views on the need for dental research to his senators and representative in Congress.

In addition to a request for a \$3 million boost in research funds, the Association is also requesting the Congress to appropriate funds for the construction of a dental research building which was authorized by Congress eight years ago.

Present quarters for the dental research institute, which must be borrowed from the other institutes, are vastly overcrowded.

The \$3 million boost in research appropriations would provide on the average about \$77,000 per year per dental school and private research centers engaged in dental research. This amount is minimal in comparison to the average of some \$692,000 in research grants available to each of the nation's 78 medical schools in 1954.

In addition to writing their senators and congressmen, dentists are also urged to express their views on the need for expanded dental research programs to:

Representative John E. Fogarty, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, House Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, Washington 25, D.C.

Representative Clarence Cannon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, Washington 25, D.C.

Senator Lister Hill, Chairman of the Labor and Health, Education and Welfare Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee, United States Senate, Washington 25, D.C.

Senator Carl Hayden, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, United States Senate, Washington 25, D.C.