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## ADA News Letter - 06/15/1956

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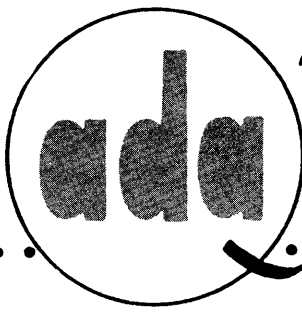
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# News Letter

Vol. 9, No. 17 - June 15, 1956

## **NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S TEETH FORMED IN NEW YORK-- DR. BENJAMIN SPOCK HEADS ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT OF WATER FLUORIDATION**

Formation of a new national committee in support of water fluoridation--the Committee to Protect Our Children's Teeth, Inc.--was announced this week in New York. Heading the distinguished list of dental, medical and civic leaders on the committee is Dr. Benjamin Spock, of Cleveland, one of the nation's best known pediatricians. Dr. Spock said that the committee was formed to spread facts and correct misinformation on water fluoridation. Its first campaign will be concentrated on New York City where fluoridation has been repeatedly recommended by the Board of Health. Dr. Spock said that persons in many parts of the nation had joined the committee because "New York's" decision will be pivotal and perhaps decisive in advancing the measure across the country." He pointed out that fluoridation is now in operation in 24 of the nation's largest cities, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Baltimore, St. Louis and Washington, D.C. Dr. Spock said that the State Charities Aid Association, 105 E. 22nd St., New York, N.Y., is accepting tax-deductible contributions toward a \$100,000 budget for an intensive education campaign.

### **FLUORIDATION IS CALLED SAFE, EFFECTIVE MEASURE**

Dr. Spock, who is visiting professor of child development at Western Reserve University, called water fluoridation "the safest, most effective and cheapest way to protect children's teeth," and added that "up to ten years of successful use of the procedure by more than 1,100 communities across our country have proved its efficiency and absolute safety." Dr. Spock said that fluoridation is not yet well enough understood by people whose children would benefit and that "what we do or fail to do in imparting information and winning understanding affects the future of boys and girls now being born. Public ignorance about these facts is serious. Dental health affects nutrition. It profoundly influences many aspects of physical and mental health." Dr. Spock said that the fears of fluoridation although groundless may assume epidemic proportions. "No valid evidence has been offered," he said, "to support these claims (of dangerous effects). And yet in most cities where the issue is joined, the scare campaigns delay acceptance of what is considered the greatest public health advance in the past 25 years."

### **DR. C. R. WELLS HEADS DENTAL ADVISORY GROUP**

Dr. C. Raymond Wells, of Brooklyn, president of the New York Academy of Dentistry and a former president of the American Dental Association, is chairman of a dental advisory council being formed as a unit of the full committee. Members of the dental council include Dr. Francis Arnold Jr., director of the National Institute of Dental Research; Dr. Lester W. Burket, dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry; Dr. Emory W. Morris, president, W. K. Kellogg Foundation; Dr. Herbert L. Taub, president, Dental Society of the State of New York, and many other prominent members of the profession.

### **NATIONALLY-KNOWN CIVIC LEADERS ON COMMITTEE**

More than 125 of the nation's leading citizens are members of the committee, which is still in the process of formation. Vice chairmen are: Mrs. Mary W. Lasker, president of the Lasker Foundation; Basil O'Connor, president, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis; Dr. Thomas Parran, dean, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and former surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, and Dr.

William P. Shepard, second vice president, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Other members include: Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, syndicated health columnist; Dr. Reginald M. Atwater, executive secretary of the American Public Health Association; Chester I. Barnard, former chairman, National Science Foundation; Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Margaret M. Bryant, president, American Association of University Women; Dr. Charles S. Cameron, medical director, American Cancer Society; Louis I. Dublin, consultant, Institute of Life Insurance; Marshall Field, president, Child Welfare League of America; Dr. Morris Fishbein; George J. Hecht, publisher, Parents' Magazine; Dr. Henry F. Helmholz, health chairman, National Congress of Parents and Teachers; H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator; Dr. Norvin C. Kiefer, chief medical director, Equitable Life Assurance Association; Charles Glen King, scientific director, Nutrition Foundation; George Meany, president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.; Newbold Morris, president, Children's Welfare Federation; Dr. Peter Marshall Murray, past president, Medical Society of the County of New York; Walter P. Reuther, international president, United Auto Workers; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Dr. Howard A. Rusk, associate editor, New York Times; Earl Ubell, science editor, New York Herald Tribune; Bethuel M. Webster, past president, Bar Association of the City of New York; Abel Wolman, past president, American Water Works Association, and several score others.

## RESEARCH GRANTS BEFORE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF HOUSE AND SENATE

A conference committee of members of both houses of Congress was scheduled to meet by early next week to iron out differences in an appropriation bill that includes funds for dental research grants. The bill (H.R. 9720), as approved by the Senate June 5, includes \$6,026,000 for dental activities, the full amount urged by the A.D.A., while the House version, approved earlier, contains \$3,471,000 for dental activities. The conferees from the Senate include Sens. Chavez (D., N.M.), Clements (D., Ky.), Dworshak (R., Ida.), Hill (D., Ala.), Magnuson (D., Wash.), Mundt (R., S.D.), Potter (R., Mich.), Russell (D., Ga.), Smith (R., Me.), Stennis (D., Miss.) and Thye (R., Minn.). The House members on the conference committee are Reps. Cannon (D., Mo.), Denton (D., Ind.), Fernandez (D., N.M.), Fogarty (D., R.I.), Hand (R., N.J.), Jensen (R., Ia.), Lanham (D., Ga.) and Taber (R., N.Y.).

### OTHER RESEARCH BILLS SLATED FOR HOUSE VOTE

Two other allied bills -- one to increase the authorization for construction of a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research

and the other to provide matching grants for expansion and construction of research facilities at non-federal institutions such as dental schools -- were expected to be reported out to the full House of Representatives for action by the House Rules Committee next week along with other pending health measures. Both bills have been passed by the Senate. Meanwhile, in Montana, a resolution commending Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont). for his efforts on behalf of legislation for dental research was formally adopted by the Montana State Dental Association. Sen. Murray was praised "for his cooperation with the dental profession." Sen. Murray was the principal sponsor of the bill for construction of a dental research building and has been a leader in efforts to obtain the actual appropriations for the building.

## NEW DENTAL SCHOOL SET FOR PUERTO RICO; DR. BARALT NAMED DEAN

Dr. A. Raymond Baralt Jr., dean since 1950 of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, Loyola University, has resigned, effective Sept. 1, to establish a dental school in Puerto Rico and become its dean. Dr. Gustav Rapp, professor of chemistry and physiology at Loyola, has been named acting dean to succeed Dr. Baralt in Chicago. The new school in Puerto Rico is to be established in association with an already existing medical school at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, the capital. Plans call for the first freshmen class to be enrolled for September, 1957. Before coming to Chicago six years ago, Dr. Baralt served for five years on the faculty at the School of Dentistry, Temple University, Philadelphia, where he was secretary of the faculty and an associate professor. He received his dental degree from Temple in 1942. Under Dr. Baralt's administration at Loyola, a graduate division was developed in the dental school.

## **PUBLICATION CLINIC' TO HIGHLIGHT CONFERENCE ON DENTAL JOURNALISM**

A "publication clinic" will highlight the conference on dental journalism to be held July 6-7 at A.D.A. headquarters in Chicago. The meeting is sponsored jointly by the A.D.A. Council on Journalism and the American Association of Dental Editors. Experts in typography, layout, art, photography, editing and production will provide individual counsel to dental editors on their publications. The consultants are members of the Board of Standards of the Industrial Editors Association of Chicago. Dr. J.C. Almy Harding, of San Diego, Calif., will preside at the clinic. There will also be a panel on solution of editorial problems with editors of four dental journals taking part. Presiding will be Dr. Morris J. Wilson, of Greenville, Ky. Speakers at the first day's session will be Dr. Willard Ogle, of Dallas, editor of the Texas Dental Journal; Mr. Walter Yust, editor of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica;" Miss Marcia Winn, feature writer for the Chicago Tribune; Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A., and Mr. John J. Hollister, of Chicago, A.D.A. business manager. The chairman of the Council on Journalism is Dr. William L. Barnum, of Portland, Ore., and the president of the American Association of Dental Editors is Dr. Ralph Rosen, of St. Louis.

## **ANNOUNCE EXTENSION OF ILWU-PMA WEST COAST DENTAL PROGRAM TO JUNE 1957**

Prepaid dental health care for children of Pacific coast union members has been extended to June 1957, trustees of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union-Pacific Maritime Association Welfare Fund have announced. Eleven thousand children in California, Oregon and Washington under the age of 15 are included in the program. The trustees reported that the additional year of coverage will require no increase in contributions to the fund, since "keeping the children in the good dental health they now have will cost less than providing the care needed at the start of the program." Dental services provided children during the first year of the program cost \$616,000, the trustees reported. It was estimated that 80 per cent of the children enrolled at the onset of the program received dental care during the year.

## **EXPLORE NEED FOR APTITUDE TESTS FOR DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICANTS**

Twenty-nine of the nation's 33 dental hygiene schools are participating in an experimental aptitude testing program to determine if there is a need for such tests prior to admission to dental hygiene schools. Aptitude tests were given to nearly 1,500 freshman and senior dental hygiene students last month and a second series of examinations is planned for the fall. The pilot study is being sponsored by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, under the guidance of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The council developed a dental aptitude testing program 10 years ago and has estimated that the academic mortality rate of freshman dental students has been reduced to two per cent since the program's inception.

## **DENTAL RECORDS VALUABLE IN IDENTIFICATION OF CRASH VICTIMS**

The value of accurate dental records as a positive means of identification was pointed out in two recent military plane crashes. In one case, the remains of a lower jaw and fragments of an upper jaw with five teeth received from an overseas base were identified as belonging to one of six individuals whose names were listed as victims of a Navy plane crash. Similar identification was made of victims of a Marine Corps plane crash in California. In this case the passenger list included the names of several individuals who actually were on another plane. Positive identification of those on the flight was made on the basis of dental records.

## **COUNCIL APPROVES 13 MORE DENTAL INTERNSHIP AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS**

The A.D.A. Council on Dental Education has approved seven additional dental internship programs and six more dental residency programs in 13 hospitals. There are now 150 internship and 91 residency programs at 174 hospitals which have been approved by the council.

## DR. CARL SEBELIUS HEADS DENTAL PROGRAM OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, of Nashville, is the new dental officer for the World Health Organization. He has been given a two-year leave of absence as chief dental officer of the Division of Dental Health of the Tennessee Department of Health to fill the position at the health body's headquarters in Geneva. Dr. Sebelius succeeds Dr. John W. Knutson who has returned to his duties as chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service after a year's assignment to establish the dental program as part of the permanent activities of the WHO. In his new position, Dr. Sebelius will be concerned with dental health activities for a large part of the world. In 1951, he studied the dental health programs of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and England under a WHO fellowship. Dr. Sebelius has headed the Tennessee dental division since 1942 and is former editor of the Journal of the Tennessee State Dental Association and chairman of the state society's council on dental health. He also was president of the Nashville Dental Society and was president and secretary of the American Association of Public Health Dentists.

## NEW PAMPHLET ON PERIODONTAL DISEASE AVAILABLE FROM ASSOCIATION

A new pamphlet on periodontal disease, entitled, "They're Your Teeth," is available from the A.D.A.'s Bureau of Dental Health Education. The booklet, which has been approved by the American Academy of Periodontology, includes diagrams illustrating the progress of periodontal disease. The text explains the various kinds of periodontal disease, their cause, treatment and prevention. The bureau also has revised two other pamphlets "Orthodontics: Questions and Answers" and "The Care of Children's Teeth." Sample copies are available without charge upon request.

## A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP SOARS TO RECORD-BREAKING 84,931 ON MAY 31

Total membership in the A.D.A. reached 84,931 on May 31, an all-time record. The new total was 80 above the previous high set at the end of 1955, and nearly 1,700 ahead of the same date last year. Forty-six constituent societies reported membership gains over last May. More than eight out of every ten practicing dentists are members of the Association. Included in the record-breaking total were: 75,024 fully privileged members (active and life), up 2,584 over last May, and 9,692 student members, up 103 over the same date last year. Membership in other categories was: affiliate, 184; associate, 16, and honorary, 15.

## BOOK DESCRIBES ROLE OF OFFICE ASSISTANT IN MEDICAL, DENTAL PRACTICE

A new book entitled, The Office Assistant in Medical and Dental Practice, has just been published. Designed essentially as a teaching aid in schools and communities with training programs for medical assistants, it also is helpful as a reference manual for those already in the profession. The book was written by Carol Towner, executive assistant, department of public relations, American Medical Association, and Portia M. Frederick, instructor, medical office assisting, Long Beach (Calif.) City College. The book was published by W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia and London.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

...A celebration on June 27 in Washington, D.C., will mark the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Pure Food and Drug Act....The 1956 Gordon Research Conference on the chemistry, structure and physiology of bones and teeth will be held July 16-20 at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, N.H. The chairman is Dr. Reidar F. Sognnaes of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston....Added to the list of dentists who have been chosen mayors of their communities is Dr. Theodore C. Agins, member of the board of directors of the First District Dental Society of the State of New York, who has been elected mayor of the village of Kensington in Long Island. Dr. Agins is editor of the society's Bulletin of the Midtown Dental Society and is former president of the society....Reprints on "The Importance of Being a Teacher," an article by Dr. Shailer Peterson, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, are available from the Association. The article appeared in the Journal of Dental Education.