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News Letter

Vol. 9, No. 21 - August 1, 1956

PRESIDENT SIGNS \$4 MILLION AUTHORIZATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH BUILDING; OTHER DENTAL RESEARCH BILLS CLEAR CONGRESS NEAR CLOSE OF 84TH SESSION

Three more bills dealing with dental research have reached President Eisenhower's desk and one has been signed into law. As the 84th Congress went into history, the record chalked up on both sides of Capitol Hill showed major gains for the dental profession. The President on July 19 placed his signature on the bill boosting from \$2 million to \$4 million the authorization for the construction of a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research. The measure is now Public Law 732 of the 84th Congress. In a supplemental appropriation bill, also sent to the White House after approval by Congress, \$200,000 was included for the preparation of plans for the building. The same supplemental bill contained an appropriation of \$30 million as the first installment on a \$90 million three-year program of matching grants for construction and expansion of research facilities, principally for schools of dentistry and medicine. Along with the initial appropriation, the starting date for the program was set for last July 1. A third research measure, the grants-in-aid bill, cleared Congress last week. It provides that federal contributions would have to be matched by private institutions which conduct research "in the sciences related to health." To administer the program, the bill also calls for a National Advisory Council on Research Facilities made up of 12 members, eight of whom would be "leading medical, dental or scientific authorities." Earlier, the President had signed a bill providing \$6,026,000 for dental activities of which nearly \$4 million is set aside for research grants at dental schools and dental research centers.

TRIBUTE PAID TO DENTAL PROFESSION FOR 'TIRELESS EDUCATIONAL EFFORT'

Favorable action on the research measures was viewed as highly significant, permitting a new, large-scale attack on the nation's enormous dental disease problem. In an editorial paying tribute to members of the dental profession for impressing on Congress the urgent need for substantially increased research, the August issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association said: "Long months of tireless educational effort by the Association aided by the faculties of the nation's dental schools, countless other organizations and individuals were required before Congress was convinced of the seriousness of the nation's dental problem. Today the Association, for itself and for the organizations associated with it, takes this means of acknowledging its gratitude to all its friends in Congress, and particularly to Senator (Lister) Hill (D., Ala.) and Representative (John E.) Fogarty (D., R.I.) for their cooperation, leadership and informed judgment which enabled the profession to sow the seed for additional methods of preventing dental disorders."

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL BEFORE PRESIDENT; ADDS 79,000 DENTISTS TO OASI PROGRAM

A Social Security bill bringing self-employed dentists into the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program for the first time was before President Eisenhower this week after clearing Congress in the final hours of the 84th session last Friday. The bill adds an estimated 200,000 self-employed persons to the program, including dentists, lawyers and all other presently exempt professional groups except physicians. In a last-minute move, osteopaths also were included in the bill. Under the measure, approximately 79,000 dentists would pay taxes of 3 3/8 per cent on the first \$4,200 of annual net earnings, or \$141.75, the first assessment to be filed with the 1956 income tax return in early 1957. The starting date for computing credit toward

retirement payments and other benefits under the program would be Jan. 1, 1956, and the first benefit payments could be made for the period ending in July, 1957. The maximum payment after the retirement age of 65 is \$108.50 monthly and an additional \$54.25 if the beneficiary has a wife over 65. Under the new bill, wives of retired individuals could at age 62 elect to receive a lower amount. Generally, a self-employed dentist under the age of 65 and now in practice would be eligible for retirement benefits at age 65 (1) if he practices for at least 10 years after Jan. 1, 1956, or (2) if he practices one-half the time between Jan. 1, 1956, and his 65th birthday, assuming that he spends at least a year and a half in practice and earns at the rate of at least \$400 a year. Dentists now past the age of 65 could qualify under the program by being in practice for a year and a half after Jan. 1, 1956, and earning at least \$600 in this period of time. Dentists would also be eligible under the new disability provisions of the bill which allow totally and permanently disabled persons to receive payments at the age of 50. These extend from \$30 to \$108.50 monthly and would go into effect next July. Under the survivor's provisions of the measure, a widow over 62 may be entitled to draw three-fourths of the benefits earned by her husband while a mother of any age with children under 18 may be entitled to three-fourths of the benefits earned by her husband plus the same amount for each child up to a maximum payment of \$200 for a family.

DENTAL DIRECTOR NAMED FOR WASHINGTON STATE WELFARE PROGRAM

Dr. M. M. Kessler, of Seattle, chairman of the judicial committee of the Washington State Dental Association, has been named chief of dental services of the division of medical care of the Washington State Department of Public Assistance. The program will be administered by the Washington State Dental Service Corporation, an agency established by the Washington State Dental Association and similar to the physician-sponsored Washington Physicians' Service which administers the medical welfare program. Dr. Kessler is a former vice-president of the Seattle District Dental Society and a member of its executive committee. A contract was approved recently by the Washington State Dental Service Corporation and the State Department of Public Assistance, giving the corporation the authority to administer the dental program.

COMMITTEES FOR ATLANTIC CITY ANNUAL SESSION NAMED BY DR. KINGSBURY

Dr. Bernerd C. Kingsbury, of San Francisco, president of the Association, has announced the appointment of three standing committees and 10 reference committees of the House of Delegates for the annual meeting of the A.D.A. to be held Oct. 1 through 4 in Atlantic City. Following are the appointments with the chairman listed first for each committee. The three standing committees head the list.

Constitution and Bylaws (elected by the House of Delegates) -- F. A. Pierson, Nebraska; James Berney, Iowa; E. B. Penn, Florida; Herbert L. Taub, New York; C. M. Taylor, Texas.

Credentials -- Paul W. Zillmann, New York; Harold M. Kramer, Oregon; Carl J. Madda, Illinois.

Rules and Order -- Joseph V. Masino, Pennsylvania; Paul H. Asher, Indiana; L. W. Gochenour, West Virginia.

Dental Education -- William A. Garrett, Georgia; Alva S. Appleby, Maine; Raymond E. Myers, Kentucky.

Dental Research and Therapeutics -- Victor L. Steffel, Ohio; Allen R. Cutler, Idaho; Obed H. Moen, Wisconsin.

Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations -- William S. Smith, California; G. Herbert Fitz, Illinois; Isidore Teich, New York.

Federal Dental Services -- G. B. Clendenin, Maryland; H. R. Rutten, North Dakota; J. R. Short, Michigan.

Hospital Dental Service -- Bruce F. Wilkinson, Texas; Lyall O. Bishop, California; Daniel J. Holland, Massachusetts.

Insurance -- P. B. Hair, South Carolina; David Hunn, New York; A. E. Smith, Louisiana.

Legislation -- Isaac Sissman, Pennsylvania; H. J. Niedhamer, Ohio; George J. White, New Jersey.

Miscellaneous Business -- Henry E. Colby, Minnesota; Andrew M. Ballentine, Tennessee; C. F. Isenberger, Illinois.

Public Health -- Phillip J. Tennis, California; Nicholas Migliaccio, Rhode Island; K. J. Ryan, Michigan.

Report of President -- C. S. Foster, Iowa; Rolla C. Calkin, Oklahoma; Edmund J. Leach, California.

U.S.P.H.S. ISSUES 10-YEAR REPORT ON GRAND RAPIDS FLUORIDATION STUDY

There is evidence that fluoridation will benefit older age group persons as well as young children, according to a report by the U.S. Public Health Service on the 10-year fluoridation program in Grand Rapids, Mich. "The beneficial effects of fluoridated water are not confined to persons drinking the water since birth," the report said. "The results suggest that some benefit was obtained by persons whose teeth had already formed or erupted when they started drinking fluoridated water." The report again demonstrated the over-all effectiveness of fluoridation in reducing tooth decay. It indicated that dental decay was reduced by about 54 per cent in the primary teeth of six-year-olds in Grand Rapids, and by about 60 per cent in the permanent teeth of children born in the city since the program was initiated in 1945.

PUBLISH NEW BROCHURE ON FLUORIDE OPPONENTS

Mimeographed brochure is information relating to three physicians, Drs. Frederick B. Exner, Charles Brusck and George L. Waldbott, which was not previously listed. Copies may be obtained without charge from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

MC CALL'S, READER'S DIGEST CARRY FLUORIDATION ARTICLES

A newly revised and expanded edition of "Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation" was issued last week. Included in the 24-page piece also appears in the August issue of the Reader's Digest. Written by Robert L. Heilbroner, the article describes the effects of fluoridation and presents facts to refute anti-fluoridationist charges. It concludes: "In the long run fluoridation undoubtedly will win out. And for all the teeth, the money and the pain it will save, equally valuable will be the demonstration that educated Americans can't be stampeded by fear."

N.Y.C. BOARD OF ESTIMATE TO DECIDE ON FLUORIDATION

An article entitled, "The Fluoridation Scare," is currently appearing in the August issue of McCall's magazine. A condensed version of the In New York City, Mayor Robert F. Wagner said that the question of fluoridating the city's water supply will be settled by the Board of Estimate, not by referendum. Meeting with representatives of the National Committee to Protect Our Children's Teeth, Mayor Wagner reiterated his support of the public health measure and said that a public hearing on fluoridation would be held by mid-October. The New York Times, commenting editorially on the mayor's statement, said: "...The city is years late. For more than 25 years the effect of fluoride in reducing dental decay has been known." Meanwhile, in Chicago, the fluoridation program was completed today (Aug. 1) for all 4,100,000 people in the city and its 52 suburbs. The program for the nation's second largest city was started May 1 and initially covered a portion of the city's south side and 24 suburbs containing 1,300,000 residents.

FLUORIDATION REPRINT AVAILABLE FROM A.D.A.

Reprints of a radio commentary on fluoridation, entitled, "One Man's Opinion," are available free of charge from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information. The commentary, written by W. Earl Hall, editor, Globe-Gazette, a Mason City, Iowa, newspaper, describes the many fallacies involved in arguments offered by the opponents of fluoridation. It was prepared in cooperation with Dr. Charles Henshaw, director, division of dental health, Iowa State Department of Health.

FAMILY WEEKLY MAGAZINE CARRIES ARTICLE ON DENTAL RESEARCH

An article entitled, "Can We Lick Our Biggest Health Problem?" appeared in the July 29 issue of Family Weekly Magazine, a Sunday newspaper supplement with a circulation of nearly one-and-a-half million. Written by Jack Ryan, the article cites the dental advances resulting from research and heralds future research as the only practical approach to the problem of dental disease.

DR. ENNIS NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, was chosen vice-chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations at a meeting of the council on July 29 in Chicago. Dr. Obed H. Moen, of Watertown, Wis., was re-elected secretary. Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, is the chairman. Plans were considered for maintaining a list of U.S. trained dentists practicing in other lands.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ISSUES PROPOSED RULES ON 'REFRESHER' COURSES

The A.D.A. Council on Legislation was preparing a statement for the Internal Revenue Service this week calling for a more realistic and exact interpretation of the dentist's right to deduct from income tax, as a business expense, the cost of attending professional meetings and of attending certain types of brief postgraduate courses. The action of the council followed proposals made by the Internal Revenue Service for regulations governing "refresher" courses and other types of training. The deadline for receiving comments on the new proposals is Aug. 9 and the regulations will be issued at a subsequent date. Under the proposed rules, a taxpayer would be permitted to deduct as a business expense the cost of attending a "refresher" or similar course designed to maintain his skills in his field. However, expenses incurred in taking courses to advance his skills or to obtain new skills would not qualify for deduction. Defined as deductible are expenses for courses of short term duration, without academic credit and not on a continuing basis. The proposals are designed to help provide clarification of the present Internal Revenue Code, adopted in 1954, as interpreted by subsequent court decisions and various administrative agencies. In 1954, the A.D.A. House of Delegates authorized the Council on Legislation to discuss improved income tax regulations with federal agencies "so as to enlarge and more clearly define the right of a dentist to deduct, as a business expense, those expenses incurred in attending a recognized professional meeting either in the United States or abroad."

KENTUCKY COURT RULES AGAINST DENTAL LABORATORY ADVERTISING TO PUBLIC

The Kentucky Court of Appeals has ruled that a dental laboratory which solicits customers from the public rather than the dental profession through advertising is practicing dentistry without a license. The decision was rendered in the case of the Kentucky State Board of Dental Examiners vs. K. W. Steely, a dental laboratory operator. The appeal court decision reversed a ruling of the Whitley County Circuit court.

CLEVELAND DENTAL SOCIETY UNDERTAKES UNUSUAL FLUORIDATION PROJECT

An unusual project of patient education in water fluoridation has been undertaken by the fluoridation committee of the Cleveland Dental Society. The committee is headed by Dr. Thomas J. Hill, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research. An eight-by-10-inch placard has been made available for dentists' offices. The placard says in large letters, "Fluoridation? Yes!" Underneath, it states, "This office favors fluoridation of municipal water supplies," and goes on to point out that the procedure is "endorsed by American Dental Association, American Medical Association, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Cleveland Dental Society."

DENTAL CARE PROGRAM SET UP FOR TWO UNION GROUPS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Dental Society has entered into an agreement to provide dental service for members, and their dependents, of two unions, the Massachusetts Building Industry Union and the Massachusetts Heavy Construction Union. The two unions have a membership of about 25,000. Announcement of the program was made by Dr. Harold E. Tingley, of Boston, secretary of the society, who reported that the project was authorized by the society's house of delegates June 21 and became effective July 1. The group dental health care program is administered by the Massachusetts Laborers' Health and Welfare Building Industry Fund and the Massachusetts Laborers' Health and Welfare Heavy Construction Fund and provides for direct payment to participating dentists by the fund office on the basis of a fee schedule agreed to by the dental society.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON DRUGS IN DENTISTRY SCHEDULED FOR MISSISSIPPI

A conference on drugs in dentistry has been scheduled for Aug. 30-31 at the University of Mississippi, in the town of University. Sponsors are the Mississippi Dental Association, Northeast Mississippi Dental Society, the university's school of medicine and the State Board of Health. Among the participants will be Dr. Lester W. Burket, of Philadelphia, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics; Dr. John E. Buhler, dean of the School of Dentistry, Emory University; Dr. James T. Ginn, dean of the College of Dentistry, University of Tennessee; Dr. Floyd D. Ostrander, of the School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, and Dr. W. J. Hanratty, of the School of Dentistry, University of Detroit.