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News Letter

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Vol. 11, No. 10 - Thursday, May 15, 1958

A.D.A. SPOKESMEN URGE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE TO SUPPORT \$3,700,000 APPROPRIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH BUILDING

The only practical method for solving the nation's dental disease problem lies in prevention and only through research will there be found the means of prevention and early control of dental disease, a representative of the A.D.A. told a Senate subcommittee May 14 in emphasizing the need for construction of a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research. Dr. Floyd W. Pillars, of Des Moines, Iowa, vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, said lack of space and facilities for the dental research institute has retarded investigations in basic and clinical research. Speaking at hearings on an appropriation bill being considered by the Appropriation Committee's subcommittee on labor, health, education and welfare, headed by Sen. Hill (D., Ala.), Dr. Pillars said that less than 10,000 square feet are now available to dental scientists in the makeshift facilities for the institute as compared with 35,000 square feet of working space that would be provided in the proposed building. The appropriations bill, approved earlier by the House of Representatives, includes \$ 3,700,000 for construction of the research building.

NEARLY ALL DENTAL SCHOOLS NOW ENGAGED IN RESEARCH

College of Dentists, urged that appropriations for the grant program of the National Institute of Dental Research be increased by \$ 750,000. The House-approved budget includes \$ 6,543,000 for dental health and research activities, including research grants to dental schools and other research centers. Dr. Hill recalled that the research grant program had received its first real impetus in 1956 when Congress increased appropriations five-fold for the program. "In 1955, before the increase in funds was made available, only 50 per cent of the dental schools had active programs of dental research," Dr. Hill said. "Since then the participation is almost 100 per cent and the number of investigators engaged in dental research has increased six-fold."

In other A.D.A. testimony, Dr. Thomas J. Hill, of Brecksville, Ohio, chairman of the Council on Dental Research and president of the American

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GAIN

Association membership continued to increase last month, reaching 87,753 on April 30, an increase of 1,151 over the total at the same time for the year before. The new figure includes 72,069 active members, 4,630 life members, 216 affiliate members, 19 associate members, 17 honorary members and 10,802 student members.

A.D.A. PRESENTS EXHIBIT TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

An A.D.A. exhibit, entitled "The Role of the Dentist in Maintaining Health," has been presented to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and is on display in the museum's recently-opened Hall of Health. The exhibit contains four panels -- on research, prevention, treatment and community health.

FLUORIDATION NOW SERVES 33.5 MILLION IN 1,644 COMMUNITIES

Water fluoridation, as of May 1, was in operation in 1,644 communities with combined populations of 33,418,719 persons, the U.S. Public Health Service reported last week.

USE OF AIR FORCE FUNDS FOR 'FAMILY DENTAL CLINICS' QUESTIONED

Opposition of the A.D.A. to the operation of "family dental clinics" at four Air Force bases has been voiced to a congressional subcommittee considering reforms in the Medicare program which provides health care for the dependents of military personnel. The clinics are staffed by civilian dentists paid on a salary basis from "base welfare funds" with additional overhead costs borne through use of Air Force appropriated funds. In a letter to Chairman Mahon (D., Texas) of the military appropriations subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, said in part:

The Association's primary concern is with the lack of adherence to professional standards and safeguards in the establishment and operation of the "family dental clinics." However, it is believed that the apparent unauthorized expenditure of appropriated funds by the Air Force in support of the clinics is important and merits the attention of the subcommittee.

DENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION ON 'REMOTE AREA' REQUESTS URGED

A representative of the Association urged last week that the Dental Advisory Committee to the Department of Defense be empowered to make recommendations on requests for the designation of military bases as "remote areas" with respect to dental services under the Medicare program for military dependents. In a "remote area" base, dependents may receive care from military dental officers. The proposal was made by Dr. E. Jeff Justis, of Memphis, chairman of the Council on Federal Dental Services, in a letter to Dr. Frank B. Berry, assistant secretary of defense for health and medical affairs. Dr. Justis noted that despite Defense Department instructions that commanders of bases must consult with state dental societies on the availability of civilian dentists to treat military dependents, the bases in some cases have been designated as "remote areas" when state societies have made recommendations to the contrary. Dr. Justis cited a resolution recently adopted by the Council on Federal Dental Services which called for the Dental Advisory Committee to consider requests for the "remote areas" designation when controversy exists between the military authorities seeking the designation and the state dental society concerned. The letter to Dr. Berry added: "The council members were of the opinion that this problem is of the type for the solution of which the Dental Advisory Committee to your office was established." The Dental Advisory Committee is headed by Dr. Thomas P. Fox, of Philadelphia, and includes Dr. Justis, Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, A.D.A. president-elect; Dr. John Brauer, of Chapel Hill, N.C., dean of the School of Dentistry, University of North Carolina, and the dental chiefs of the three military services.

HOUSE PASSES JOBLESS AID BILL; BENEFITS FOR UNCOVERED WORKERS REJECTED

The House of Representatives last week approved an administration-sponsored bill that would extend the time period for payment of unemployment compensation benefits. Earlier, the House Ways and Means Committee rejected proposals to provide benefits for workers not now covered. Also rejected was an accompanying proposal that would have extended the federal tax to include employers of one or more persons. Most dentists will remain exempt from the federal unemployment tax if the House-approved bill is enacted.

CAREER INCENTIVE PAY PLAN NOT ALTERED BY MILITARY COMPROMISE BILL

A House and Senate conference committee last week agreed on a military pay raise bill that retains intact the existing provisions for special pay for dental and medical officers. The compromise bill was passed by the House May 12. The bill would give a pay increase of at least six per cent to all members of the armed forces with at least two years of service. The raises would be graduated. The A.D.A. had strongly recommended to Congress earlier that the current career incentive pay plan be retained in any military pay adjustment legislation.

U.S. HAS 100,534 DENTISTS, AN INCREASE OF 1,307 IN A YEAR

The United States had 100,534 dentists in mid-1957, an increase of 1,307 dentists in a year and 3,005 in two years, the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics estimated last week. The report was based on the 1958 American Dental Directory and included retired as well as active dentists. There were an estimated 81,000 dentists engaged in private practice. Included in the new total were 92,685 civilian dentists and 7,849 dentists serving in the armed forces, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Veterans Administration. Despite the increase in numbers of dentists, the new tabulation indicated a continuation of the trend nationally of population increasing somewhat faster than numbers of dentists. There was one dentist to every 1,679 persons in the newest report compared with one to every 1,671 persons a year earlier and one to every 1,667 persons two years previously.

TREND TOWARD MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

Offsetting the trend, the tabulation again showed a tendency toward a more uniform distribution of dentists. One example was that while the Southeast and Southwest continued to show fewer dentists in proportion to population than other regions, they also continued to show an increase. There was one dentist to every 2,988 persons in the Southeast compared with 2,990 a year earlier while the Southwest showed 2,935 as compared to 2,944 the year before.

TABULATION SHOWS REGIONAL FIGURES

The region with the lowest ratio, one dentist for 1,434 persons, continued to be the area that includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Next, with one dentist for every 1,490 persons, was New England. The Far West, including California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, was third with a ratio of one dentist to every 1,518 persons. For the Central States, it was one dentist for every 1,731 persons, and for the Northwest, the population per dentist was 1,849 persons.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRST; NEW YORK NEXT

The District of Columbia had a lower ratio than any of the states, with one dentist for every 1,099 residents. New York state was second with one dentist for each 1,166 persons. The next four states, in order, and the population per dentist were Connecticut, 1,361; Oregon, 1,388; Minnesota, 1,391, and Massachusetts, 1,402.

MANUAL ON RECRUITING DENTAL STUDENTS SENT TO DENTAL SOCIETIES

A manual for local dental society officials to serve as a guide in programs for recruiting young people to seek careers in dentistry has been prepared by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The manual is entitled, "A Dental Student Recruitment Program for Local Dental Societies." The manual, together with the council's recently-issued booklet, "Careers in Dentistry," has been sent to the presidents and secretaries of all component dental societies. "Every local dental society should have an active recruitment program as part of its regular schedule of activities," Dr. Harold W. Oppice, of Chicago, chairman of the council, said in a covering letter to the societies. "Everyone can help dentistry meet its competition for the finest of our young people who are, at this very moment, choosing lifetime careers."

DR. THOMAS CLUNE, RHODE ISLAND STATE DENTAL DIRECTOR, DIES AT 51

Dr. Thomas W. Clune, of Cranston, R.I., director of dental health activities of the Rhode Island State Department of Health and a member of the National Dental Advisory Research Council of the National Institute of Dental Research, died May 2 after a short illness. He was 51 years old. Dr. Clune was also a past president of the Rhode Island State Dental Society and was one of the founders of the Cranston District Dental Society. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the state society's Council on Dental Economics and was also chairman of a committee seeking the establishment of a school of dental hygiene in Rhode Island.

HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHED FOR SURVEY ON DENTISTRY

Headquarters were established this week for the comprehensive two-year survey of dentistry, being conducted by the American Council on Education. The address of the headquarters is 700 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11. Dr. Byron S. Hollinshead, former president of Coe College who is director of the survey, has been assembling a staff and preparing a work plan for the survey. The work plan will be presented for approval to the Commission on the Survey of Dentistry, composed of outstanding representatives of education, industrial, labor and health fields, at a meeting of the commission to be held June 18-19 in Chicago. The chairman of the commission is President Arthur S. Flemming, of Ohio Wesleyan University, who was nominated by President Eisenhower last week as successor in the cabinet to Marion B. Folsom, secretary of health, education and welfare. The dentist members of the commission are Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, of St. Louis, secretary of the American College of Dentists; Dr. Willard C. Fleming, of San Francisco, dean of the School of Dentistry, University of California; Dr. Don W. Gullett, of Toronto, secretary of the Canadian Dental Association, and Dr. Percy T. Phillips of New York, president-elect of the A.D.A.

DR. SHAILER PETERSON TO ATTEND W.H.O. COMMITTEE SESSION

Dr. Shailer Peterson, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, will serve as a member of the Expert Committee on Auxiliary Dental Personnel of the World Health Organization at a meeting of the committee in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 30 to July 5. Dr. Peterson, who will be the only U.S. member, will serve as recording secretary.

1959 A.D.A. 'APPOINTMENT BOOK' NOW AVAILABLE

The A.D.A. Appointment Book for the 1959 centennial year of the Association, containing several new features, is now available. Half hours as well as hours are indicated and time segments to 9 p.m. are shown. The Appointment Book, bound in a leatherette cover, again includes the popular patient recall section as well as a three-year calendar and national, state and territorial holidays. The book is available for \$3 from the A.D.A. Order Department, Dept. 178, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

DR. THOMAS FOX HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER

A testimonial dinner in honor of Dr. Thomas P. Fox, of Philadelphia, member of the Civilian Health and Medical Advisory Council and chairman of the Dental Advisory Committee of the Department of Defense, was held recently at the Union League Club in Philadelphia. Dr. Gerald Timmons, speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, served as toastmaster. Among speakers were Dr. Charles H. Patton, A.D.A. trustee; Dr. Edward H. Cushing, deputy assistant secretary of defense, Maj. Gen. I. S. Ravdin of the Army Reserve Corps and Maj. Gen. Silas B. Hays of the Army Medical Corps. Dr. Fox holds the rank of brigadier general in the Army Reserve Corps.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

The week of June 1 has been designated by President Eisenhower as National Youth Fitness Week. Dr. C. Willard Camalier, of Washington, D.C., assistant A.D.A. secretary, is the dentist representative on the President's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Fitness of American Youth....Dr. Russell I. Todd, of Richmond, Ky., past president of the American Association of Dental Examiners, has been elected to the board of trustees of Berea College in Kentucky....Construction is now underway on a \$230,000 addition to the dental clinic at the University of Southern California. The project was financed by the Century Club whose purpose is advancement of the university's School of Dentistry....The National Institutes of Health in April awarded \$152,447 for 13 research grants in dentistry. Fifteen dental research fellowship awards of \$62,657 were also made....A four-hour course on "Clasp-Retained Removable Partial Dentures" will be a feature of the 17th Mid-Continent Dental Congress of the St. Louis Dental Society to be held Oct. 12-15 at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel.