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American Dental Association

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# News Letter

Vol. 12, No. 9 - Monday, June 1, 1959

## ARMY AND AIR FORCE DENTAL BILLS NOW IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS; NEW MEASURES WOULD GIVE PROFESSION CONTROL OVER DENTAL PROGRAMS

Bills designed to give greater independence in administration to the Army and Air Force dental services were in the U.S. Senate this week following the introduction of similar measures in the House of Representatives. Legislation to correct inadequacies in the two services has long been sought by the A.D.A. The Senate bills (S. 1993 and S. 1994) were presented May 19 by Sen. Jackson (D., Wash.) and are similar to the Army and Air Force dental bills (H. R. 5984 and H. R. 5985) that were introduced in the House on March 24 by Rep. Rivers (D., S.C.). It was Rep. Rivers who in 1945 sponsored legislation that set up the present administrative status of the Navy Dental Corps. The new bills for the Army and Air Force, by giving dental officers in the two services more authority for administrative decisions involving professional services, would help to assure the highest quality of dental care to military personnel. The efficiency of dental practice in the two services would also be aided by improved morale of dental officers and the probabilities of lessened turnover of dental manpower in the Army and Air Force. One purpose of the bills would be to meet the need for the senior dental officer at any major installation to be responsible directly to the commanding officer for operation of the dental service. "By giving greater responsibility and control to the two dental corps, many of the inadequacies that exist would be corrected on a permanent basis," Dr. Ralph E. Creig, of Cleveland, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, said.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR SELF-EMPLOYED RETIREMENT PLAN GIVEN IN SENATE

Strong support for the proposal to permit limited tax deferrals on income of self-employed persons to set up retirement programs came May 19 in the U.S. Senate. The new support was given by Sen. Smathers (D., Fla.) who introduced his own bill which is almost identical to the Keogh-Simpson bill as passed by the House of Representatives on March 16. The new bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee of which Sen. Smathers is a key member. He is also chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. The Smathers bill differs from the Keogh-Simpson measure only in the date of effectiveness of the plan, which is set at 1961 rather than upon the date of enactment. In presenting the bill, Sen. Smathers said: "Millions of our self-employed citizens today are looking to this Congress to give to them the equivalent tax treatment which others are presently enjoying so that they too may be able to provide for the twilight years of their lives." Similar measures were presented earlier in the Senate by Sen. Morton (R., Ky.), new chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Sen. Kefauver (D., Tenn.). The A.D.A. is a charter member of the American Thrift Assembly which is urging enactment of the program.

## SENATE APPROVES INTERNATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Senate May 20 approved 63 to 17 and sent to the House of Representatives a proposal "to help mobilize the efforts...of the health professions generally, in the United States and abroad, for assault upon disease, disability, and the impairments of man and for the improvement of the health of man through international cooperation in research." The measure was

approved in principle by the A.D.A. House of Delegates last November in Dallas where Sen. Hill (D., Ala.) presented the proposal. The bill calls for the establishment of a National Institute for International Medical Research and a National Advisory Council for International Medical Research. Dr. Matthew H. Besdine, of Brooklyn, member of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, and Dr. George F. Paffenbarger, of Washington, D.C., chief of the A.D.A. research staff at the National Bureau of Standards, appeared at hearings on the bill by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, headed by Sen. Hill. At the conclusion of the A.D.A. testimony, Sen. Hill said: "I say again that which I have said a number of times before, there is no association or organization in America that has appeared before this committee more constructively than has the American Dental Association."

### **LACK OF REGIMENTATION A FACTOR IN WORLD LEADERSHIP OF U.S. DENTISTRY, DR. HILLENBRAND TELLS A.D.T.A.**

The dental profession of the United States, marking the 100th anniversary this year of the A.D.A., has achieved world leadership in part because "Americans increasingly over the years have wanted a higher standard of health to be a part of a higher standard of living," Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, Association secretary, told the American Dental Trade Association May 28 at its annual meeting in Hollywood Beach, Fla. As one reason for the outstanding development of the profession in the United States, Dr. Hillenbrand pointed to the absence of government regimentation of the health sciences. He said:

This is not to say that government does not have a proper role in protecting and safeguarding the health of all its citizens, for it does. This is to say, however, that as, in many countries, the intervention of government can proceed to the point where progress is halted under the great pressures of conformance, cost, size and politics.

Dr. Hillenbrand cited the National Health Service scheme in Great Britain as an example of wide government control. In 10 years of the plan, he said, one new hospital has been built while in the United States in the last six years, 7,000 hospital beds have been added. "The answer is not governmental intervention but strong voluntary programs with governmental assistance through states and communities," he said. Dr. Hillenbrand noted that the dental profession depends on a work force of nearly 200,000 people. "A strong profession depends on a strong trade industry and on well-trained auxiliaries," he said.

### **PROGRESS AGAINST VINCENT'S INFECTION REPORTED BY A.D.A. SCIENTIST**

An A.D.A. senior research associate at the National Institute of Dental Research has reported the first successful production of lesions in animals from the injection of oral bacteria associated with Vincent's infection. Dr. Edward G. Hampp, director of the Association's research division at the Institute, told how he and a co-worker, Dr. Stephen E. Mergenhagen of the N.I.D.R., found abscesses in the tissues of rabbits and guinea pigs at the sites injected with cultures of the spirochetes. It was Dr. Hampp who in 1943 developed the first method for growing masses of these bacteria in the laboratory. Production of the lesions in animals opens the way for studying the disease process under controlled conditions with the possibility of devising methods of prevention. The findings were reported May 14 before the Society of American Bacteriologists in St. Louis.

### **JOINT CODE SOUGHT FOR DENTISTS, PHYSICIANS, LAWYERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

An interprofessional code for dentists, physicians and lawyers is being drafted in New Hampshire by representatives of state societies of the three professions. The proposed code follows a meeting jointly of the three professions on May 9 in Concord. Each of the societies named three members to special committees to work on the proposal. Representatives of the New Hampshire Dental Society named to the code committee by Dr. Elwood F. Mac Rury, of Manchester, the president, are Dr. Harold Copeland, of Rochester; Dr. William Stuart, of Claremont, and Dr. Thomas Gallagher, of Concord.

## INCREASE TO \$10,164,000 RECOMMENDED FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

A recommendation that appropriations be increased to \$10,164,000 for dental health and research activities carried out under the auspices of the National Institute of Dental Research was made by a representative of the A.D.A. in testimony May 18 before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee. Dr. Raymond J. Nagle, of New York, member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, noting that the House of Representatives had approved a figure of \$9,725,000, said the additional \$439,000 was recommended principally to assure an adequate number of research fellowships under the program. Dr. Nagle, who is dean of the College of Dentistry, New York University and president-elect of the American Association of Dental Schools, told the subcommittee on labor, health, education and welfare: "In this year marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Dental Association, the dental profession looks with pride upon the achievements that have been made in improving the dental health of the people and the inroads that are being made into the causes of dental disease and the means of preventing them.....However, it should be pointed out that despite the significant progress that has been made, much more remains to be done."

## 'DENTURIST' BILLS INTRODUCED IN ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATURE

As had been anticipated, "denturist" bills were presented in the Illinois General Assembly last week. Identical versions introduced in the upper and lower house would give licensed "denturists" the right to deal directly with the public in repairing prosthetic appliances. There would be a special state licensing board. "Denturist" bills have been defeated in two previous sessions of the state legislature at Springfield. In the Senate, the new bill has been referred to the licensure and miscellany committee which May 27 was to consider a bill supported by the Illinois State Dental Society for amendment of the state dental practice act. Earlier the society's measure passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 150 to 0. In California, one of two proposals in the state legislature to regulate the practice of "mechanical dentistry" has been killed.

## TRANSFER OF RADIATION HAZARD CONTROL RECOMMENDED

Representatives of the A.D.A. testified at Senate hearings May 15 in favor of a measure to transfer primary responsibility for safety measures against radiation hazards from the Atomic Energy Commission to the U.S. Public Health Service. The hearings, concluded last week, were conducted by the health subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. Mr. Bernard J. Conway, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Legislation, reported that the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research had approved the measure in principle "as an effective method for protection against undue and harmful man-made radiation and for maintaining public confidence in and appreciation for the diagnostic use of dental x-rays."

### 90,000 DENTAL X-RAY UNITS IN USE IN UNITED STATES

Dr. Robert J. Nelsen, of Rockville, Md., consultant on radiation to the Council on Dental Research and A.D.A. representative on the Main

Committee of the National Committee on Radiation Protection, pointed to the many steps taken by the Association in reducing the contribution of the profession to the total exposure of the public to ionizing radiation. "While the exercise of proper radiation hygiene in the dental office is not as complex as in other fields of health and industry," he said, "the dentist has not taken his responsibilities lightly for there are more than 90,000 dental x-ray machines in the United States." Dr. Nelsen said the type of needed team approach on a matter that ultimately concerns public health on a national basis can best be coordinated by the Public Health Service.

### 'NEED FOR SECRECY HAS LARGELY DISAPPEARED'

Dr. Arthur H. Wuehrmann, associate dean of the Dental School, University of Alabama, and dental representative on the National Advisory Com-

mittee on Radiation to the Public Health Service, said that the control aspect of radiant energy vested in the Atomic Energy Commission "was born out of a need for secrecy." He added: "This requirement has largely disappeared, and, with the ever-expanding use and production of radiant energy, a need for checks and balances is becoming increasingly evident."

## EIGHT DENTISTS TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGED

Eight members of the dental profession will appear on the program at the first national conference of the Joint Council to Improve the Health Care of the Aged to be held June 12-13 in Washington, D.C., at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. The conference will be attended by some 500 representatives of state affiliates associated with the four member groups of the council. They are the A.D.A., the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association and the American Nursing Home Association. Efforts are being directed toward each state dental society being represented by two members. One purpose of the conference will be to help pave the way for the White House Conference on Aging scheduled for January, 1961. Additionally, information gained at the conference will have broad application in setting up state joint councils to be called by governors preceding the White House Conference. Participation should also help assure that dentistry achieves a proper role in the state joint council meetings. Information about the meeting can be obtained from the executive secretary of the Joint Council, Mr. Howard I. Wells Jr., 139 N. Clark St., Chicago 2.

### TOPICS INCLUDE 'PROVIDING HOME DENTAL TREATMENT'

with a symposium on "What Is a Realistic Attitude Toward the Aged?"; Dr. Herbert K. Cooper, director of the Cleft Palate Clinic at Lancaster, Penn.; Dr. Donald J. Galagan, assistant chief of the Division of Dental Public Health of the U.S. Public Health Service, who will appear in connection with a symposium on "Assessing Community Health Needs and Resources of the Aged," and Dr. Harry Lyons, of Richmond, Va., past president of the A.D.A., who will preside at a luncheon and introduce Governor Robert B. Meyner, of New Jersey. Others are Dr. Ernest B. Nuttall, of Baltimore, member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, who will discuss a symposium on "Methods of Financing Health Care of the Aged"; Dr. Leonard Reichman, of Philadelphia, assistant chief of dental service at the Albert Einstein Medical Center, who will speak on "The Dental Home Care Program in Philadelphia"; Dr. Stanley Lotzkar, of Kansas City, clinic director of a chronic disease study, whose subject will be "Experiences in Providing Home Dental Care for the Chronically Ill," and Dr. John C. Versnel Jr., of St. Louis, director of the oral surgery department at St. Louis University.

Among dentists participating in the program are Dr. Maynard K. Hine, of Indianapolis, A.D.A. trustee, who will speak in connection

## NAME NEW STAFF MEMBERS TO BUSINESS OFFICE, PUBLIC INFORMATION

Appointment of two new members to the A.D.A. staff, effective May 25, has been announced by Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, Association secretary. Mr. Robert W. Newport, of Chicago, has been named assistant business manager and Mr. Mel Garbar, of Chicago, has been appointed an assistant director of the Bureau of Public Information. Mr. Newport comes to the Association from five and a half years as personnel director of the Bankers Life and Casualty Co. Previously, he served in the Army in Korea. Mr. Newport attended Eastern Illinois State University and Northwestern University and received a bachelor's degree in psychology from DePaul University. Mr. Garbar joins the Bureau of Public Information after three and a half years as publicity director of Durkin and Rader, Chicago public relations and advertising agency. Before then, he was for two years public relations associate at Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology and before that time, served on the editorial staff of the Champaign (Ill.) News-Gazette. Mr. Garbar was awarded a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois.

## S. S. WHITE, A.D.T.A. GRANT TEACHING FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Two dental teaching fellowship awards have been announced. A special award in honor of the 100th anniversary of the A.D.A. has been granted to Walter Arnett Doyle, a senior dental student at the School of Dentistry, Emory University. The award, a grant of \$4,500, was given by the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, as a salute to the Centennial of the Association. Mr. Doyle will study for an advanced degree in pedodontics this fall at the College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska. In the second grant, Dr. Edgar N. Cole for the second year was chosen to receive the American Dental Trade Association Teaching Fellowship Award. Dr. Cole is a postgraduate student in anesthesiology at the School of Dentistry, University of Pittsburgh. Both award winners were chosen by the Fund for Dental Education.