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News Letter

Vol. 12, No. 11 - Wednesday, July 1, 1959

SENATE UNIT APPROVES \$439,000 MORE FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

An additional increase of \$439,000 for dental health activities—as recommended by the A.D.A.—is included in the Health, Education and Welfare appropriations bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The committee report specifically marks \$373,000 of the increase for training grants and fellowships. Remainder of the sum is expected to be for operations of the National Institute of Dental Research, Bethesda, Md. Action of the Senate group on June 24 brings to \$10,164,000 the total recommended for dental health and research activities under auspices of NIDR. This figure represents an increase of \$2,744,000 over the administration's proposed fiscal 1960 budget for these activities. The House of Representatives earlier had added \$2,305,000. The bill now goes to a conference committee for adjustment of differences between Senate and House figures.

DR. DEAN TO RETIRE AS SECRETARY OF A.D.A. COUNCIL ON DENTAL RESEARCH

Dr. H. Trendley Dean, recognized internationally as an authority on fluoridation, will retire July 19 as secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research. He will be succeeded by Dr. Sholom Pearlman, assistant secretary of the Council on Dental Therapeutics since 1951. Dr. Dean is retiring after six years on the Association staff. Before joining A.D.A., he served five years as director of the National Institute of Dental Research, Bethesda, Md. Dr. Dean was an officer of the U.S. Public Health Service during 1921 to 1953. The retiring secretary's research on fluorine has won him numerous awards. Dr. Pearlman came to the Association in 1951 from the faculty of the School of Dentistry, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, where he taught biochemistry. A native of Ottawa, Canada, Dr. Pearlman was graduated in 1945 from the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, and received an M.S. degree in 1951 from Western Reserve.

HOUSE PASSES A.D.A. CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION

The House of Representatives has passed unanimously a resolution congratulating the Association on its centennial. The measure earlier had received Senate approval without dissent.

COUNCIL APPROVES SURVEY OF WRITTEN WORK AUTHORIZATIONS

The A.D.A. Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations will survey the operation in various states of provisions requiring written work authorizations in transactions between dentists and commercial dental laboratories. The project, to be conducted later this year or early in 1960, was approved by the Council at its recent meeting. The survey will be designed to measure the degree of enforcement and to learn techniques used in complying with the provisions. A.D.A. policy recommends that each state dental practice act require written authorizations for dental laboratory services. Laws of at least 30 states currently require use of written instructions in transactions between dentists and dental laboratories. In addition, the Georgia Board of Dental Examiners requires by regulation the use of written instructions.

A.D.A. INVITED TO PRESENT TESTIMONY ON FORAND BILL

The A.D.A. has been invited to present oral testimony on the controversial Forand bill (H.R. 4700) during hearings set for July 13-17 by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill—which bears the name of its sponsor, Rep. Aime Forand (D-R.I.)—would provide health benefits for persons eligible for benefits under the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program of the Social Security Act. The A.D.A. position opposing the bill was explained at hearings before the same committee last year by Dr. Matthew Besdine of Brooklyn, N.Y., member of the Council on Legislation, and Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Health.

'HISTORY OF A.D.A.' TO BE AVAILABLE DURING CENTENNIAL SESSION

"A History of the American Dental Association" will be available for distribution during the centennial session, according to Dr. Lon W. Morrey, Chicago, A.D.A. editor. The volume, expected to run 520 pages with text and illustrations, will be printed in two editions—deluxe at \$12.50 a copy and regular at \$8.00. Author of the history which recounts "a century of health service" is Dr. Robert W. McCluggage of the history department, Loyola University, Chicago. In addition to being available in New York, the book may be ordered from the Association, Order Department, Desk 380, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

A.D.A. EXPLAINS POSITION ON TWO LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

The Association has outlined its position on two pieces of legislation now before congressional groups through letters from Dr. Ralph E. Creig, Cleveland, chairman of the Council on Legislation. Support of the Rhodes bill (H.R. 6871) was expressed to the House Subcommittee on Health and Safety. The measure is designed to strengthen postgraduate instruction in public health. It authorizes a \$75 million outlay for traineeships, project grants and construction during the next five years. The A.D.A. also commented on a bill (S. 2162) sponsored by Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D-S.C.) authorizing medical care and hospitalization insurance for Federal employes and dependents. It was recommended that a section of the bill creating an advisory council be rewritten so as not to preclude appointment of a dental representative.

BRITISH VOTE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO THREE OFFICERS OF A.D.A.

Three officers of the Association have been voted honorary membership in the British Dental Association. They are Dr. Percy T. Phillips of New York, president; Dr. Paul H. Jeserich, Ann Arbor, Mich., president-elect, and Dr. Lon W. Morrey, Chicago, editor. The three will receive certificates from the B.D.A. at a ceremony during the centennial session Sept. 14-18 in New York.

BRITAIN FAILS ITS CHILDREN, DECLARES HEAD OF B.D.A.

its obligation to the children under the national health service. Dr. Venning made the charge during an address at the Association's annual conference. The government, Dr. Venning declared, ignored B.D.A. advice that the care of children's teeth is the basis on which any national scheme should be founded. Although 98 per cent of school children have dental disease, he said many remain untreated. President of the British organization asserted it was an error to tell the population that free treatment would be available for everyone. This mistake, he explained, has been responsible for producing the present "unsatisfactory" state of affairs. Said Dr. Venning:

Dr. G. Lotan Venning, newly-installed president of the British Dental Association for 1959-60, has accused that country's government of failing

The dental profession has done its best to meet the new conditions of practice, but a sense of frustration frequently checks real progress. It may be that in a few years these difficulties will become resolved: that we shall have learned how to adapt the incongruities of a state service to the age-old principles of the free practitioner taking complete responsibility for the treatment of his patient.

A.D.A. TESTIMONY ON KEOGH-SIMPSON BILL DELAYED

Lack of time prevented the Association and several other groups from presenting testimony on the Keogh-Simpson bill June 17 before the Senate Finance Committee. Some 23 witnesses were lined up to testify for the House-approved bill (H.R. 10), but only 4 were heard. The A.D.A. had been listed as No. 6 witness. Its testimony is expected to be given at later hearings, probably in July.

BACKERS DISPUTE ESTIMATE ON REVENUE LOSS FROM BILL

Treasury had forecast first year loss would be \$ 365 million, but spokesmen for American Thrift Assembly put the figure at \$ 75 to \$ 100 million. Keogh-Simpson bill would allow limited tax deferrals on income set aside by self-employed persons for the purpose of setting up retirement programs.

Representatives of self-employed groups who did testify disputed U.S. Treasury Department estimates of revenue loss if the bill is enacted.

COOK-WAITE FIRM GIVES \$3,500 IN SUPPORT OF CENTENNIAL NIGHT

Cook-Waite Laboratories, Inc., New York, has contributed \$ 3,500 as partial support for centennial night being held Sept. 15 at Carnegie Hall. L. D. Caulk Co., Milford, Del., earlier had made a similar grant to the event, expected to be a social highlight of the centennial session. Program for the evening will feature the Howard Barlow Orchestra.

START WORK ON NEW BUILDING OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$ 7 million building of the National Library of Medicine have been held at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. When completed in 1961, the new structure will house the world's greatest collection of medical literature. The collection now is in an outmoded structure at 7th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. The new building will have five floors, three of which will be below ground level. Space will be provided for a million and a quarter bound volumes. At the ceremonies was Dr. Basil G. Bibby of Rochester, N.Y., who represents the dental profession on the Library's board of regents.

'DENTURIST' LEGISLATION DEFEATED IN TWO MORE STATES

Legislatures of two more states—California and Michigan—have rejected proposals which would have authorized non-dentists to provide prosthetic services directly to the public. This brings to six the number of state legislatures that have refused to support so-called "denturist" legislation during 1959. Other states in which bills have met defeat are Georgia, Nevada, Oklahoma and Washington. The California action marked defeat for the second of two proposals aimed at regulating the practice of "mechanical dentistry." The Michigan bills sought establishment of a state board of "denturology" empowered to regulate and license "denturologists" and "denturological" laboratories. Meanwhile, in Illinois a "denturist" bill died in a committee of the lower house, while action on a companion measure was still pending in the senate.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HEARS A.D.A. STAND ON ARMY-AIR FORCE DENTAL BILLS

The Association's case supporting the Army and Air Force Dental bills now in both houses of Congress was presented to the Department of Defense during a conference June 29 in Washington, D.C. It was hoped the A.D.A. stand on the bills would help the Department in framing its recommendations to Congress. The Association believes the legislation would improve organization and administration of dental services in the Army and Air Force. Chief government representative was Charles C. Finucane, assistant secretary of defense. On hand for the Association were Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant secretary of A.D.A. and head of its Washington office; Dr. Ralph E. Creig, Cleveland, and Bernard J. Conway, Chicago, chairman and secretary respectively of the Council on Legislation; and Dr. Thomas F. Powers, Plainfield, N.J., and Herbert C. Lassiter, Chicago, chairman and secretary of the Council on Federal Dental Services.

MISSISSIPPI HEALING PROFESSIONS SALUTE A.D.A. CENTENNIAL

Healing arts professions of Mississippi joined in paying tribute to the A.D.A. centennial June 23 during the 84th annual meeting of the Mississippi Dental Association in Biloxi. The salute marked the first time the state's healing professions had combined to honor one of their number, according to Dr. Carl W. Norwood Jr., president of the Mississippi society. They presented the A.D.A. with a bound volume containing several items relating to the centennial. The volume was accepted for the Association by Dr. Percy T. Phillips of New York, president. Others from the A.D.A. official family who participated were Dr. Lon W. Morrey, Chicago, editor, and three trustees—Dr. Howard B. Higgins, Spartanburg, S.C., fifth district; Dr. E. Jeff Justis, Memphis, Tenn., sixth, and Dr. Maynard K. Hine, Indianapolis, Ind., seventh.

OHIO SURVEY SHOWS TOOTH DECAY REDUCED MORE THAN 20 PER CENT IN 5 YEARS

Tooth decay in Youngstown, Ohio school children has been reduced more than 20 per cent in the last five years. This was disclosed by the second dental survey conducted since fluoride was introduced into the city's water in 1952. The survey also indicated that school children who have not been getting fluoridated water have a 33 per cent higher decay rate. Dr. Robert V. C. Carr, chairman of the Corydon Palmer Dental Society's survey committee, announced results of the checkup. It covered 8,238 school children in first, sixth and ninth grades. Dr. Carr said the full effect of fluoridation on tooth decay in Youngstown will not be known until a third survey is completed in 1964, some 10 years after the initial study was made. Here are some results from the second survey:

1. Maximum benefits of fluoridation showed up in first graders. The 1959 survey disclosed a 49 per cent decrease in the DMF average for this group compared with the 1954 checkup. Dr. Carr said continued improvement is expected in first grade teeth, but the percentage reduction probably will drop in the next survey.
2. The checkup revealed that students surveyed in 1959 had 25 per cent less bad teeth than those in 1954. This phase of the survey took into account missing teeth or teeth that could not be saved and had to be extracted.
3. Only 55 per cent of the students examined in the 1959 checkup needed some dental care compared with 68.5 per cent in the 1954 survey. This constituted a 20 per cent reduction.

EDUCATION ON FLUORIDATION NEEDED, SURVEY REVEALS

Fluoridation is not a topic of general interest to the public in most countries, according to a survey prepared by the Secretariat of the Federation Dentaire Internationale. The survey cited need for educational programs similar to the one in the United States to advise respective publics of benefits obtainable from fluoridated drinking water. It was noted that apart from the U.S. and Canada principles of the procedure are not implemented with government support on a national scale in any country. Chile and Czechoslovakia were found to be proceeding with fluoridation on a large scale. However, the survey disclosed that several countries have considered it desirable to conduct their own research to determine the effects of fluoridation. Other factors, such as finance and lack of community water service, were determined by the survey to be influencing spread of fluoridation.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Percy T. Phillips of New York, A.D.A. president, was to attend a meeting of the Commission on Survey of Dentistry today and tomorrow in Washington, D.C....Dr. Sunder J. Vazirani of Chicago, instructor in oral surgery at Research and Education Hospital, University of Illinois, is the first citizen of India to be elected a member of the American Society of Oral Surgeons....Col. Maurice C. Harlan has been appointed deputy assistant for dental services, U.S. Air Force Dental Corps, effective today. Colonel Harlan will act as assistant to Maj. Gen. James S. Cathroe.