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SUPPORT THE A.D.A. RELIEF FUND

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KENNEDY APPROACH TO NATIONAL HEALTH REVEALED BY CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

The attitude of the incoming Kennedy administration toward health matters can be seen clearly through examination of various statements and speeches made by President-elect John F. Kennedy during his campaign. One speech in particular contained a six-part program of "New Frontiers For Health." Throughout the campaign, major emphasis was placed on medical care for the aged, financed through Social Security. At one point, the Massachusetts Senator said that "we must provide a more adequate program of medical care for the aged -- a system which enables a man during his working days to set aside in a trust fund the cost of health insurance after retirement."

Second in the Kennedy health program is provision of federal grants for the "construction, expansion and modernization of medical schools, dental schools and schools of public health." The President-elect also proposed giving scholarships to health field students willing to "devote their talents to fighting diseases in underdeveloped nations" or to serve domestically in rural and other areas which lack personnel. Another provision of the program would provide federal aid for renovation of older hospitals and for research devoted to improving hospital operation and administration. Sen. Kennedy also advocated "more and longer commitments" by the federal government in providing long-term grants for increased research, including basic research. The last of the proposals called for expansion of efforts for rehabilitation. "Two million handicapped or disabled people in America today could be rehabilitated if the funds and services were available -- but instead we are providing for 88,000," he said. Some Washington observers expect Congress to approach health matters somewhat more conservatively than will the new executive branch.

Relief Fund Nears Half of Goal

The 1960-61 ADA Relief Fund had reached nearly half its quota of \$125,000 as of Nov. 15. Total contributions as of that date were \$61,525.49, which was 49.2% of the target sum. Three constituent societies have already over-subscribed their quotas: Alaska, 171%; Arizona, 113%, and Tennessee, 167%.

Membership Goes Over 96,000

Figures released as of Oct. 31 show that ADA membership is 96,092, an increase of 1,581 over the same date in 1959. A breakdown of the total figures shows: active, 77,696; life, 5,458; affiliate, 256; associate, 24; honorary, 36, and student, 12,622.

ADA Gives \$500 to Red Cross

A check for \$500 was sent recently to the American Red Cross by the ADA at direction of the House of Delegates and board of trustees. The money is being contributed for the administration of relief to the dentists of Chile, recently the victims of an earthquake. The Red Cross will carry out the administrative functions of disbursing the funds.

Accreditation Group Studied

Formation of a national dental laboratory accreditation commission composed of representatives of the dental profession and the dental laboratory industry has come under study. The proposal was discussed Nov. 12 and 13, when representatives of ADA and the National Association of Dental Laboratories met at the central office to continue talks on a program for accreditation of commercial dental laboratories. In connection with the possible establishment of a dental laboratory accreditation commission, conferees heard a comprehensive review of the program of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals presented by Dr. Denver M. Vickers, assistant to the director of the Joint Commission. The conferees will renew their discussions of the accreditation program and development of a national dental laboratory accreditation commission at their next meeting Feb. 6-7, 1961, in Chicago. Dr. J. Eugene Ziegler, chairman, Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, served as chairman of the meeting. NADL representatives were Messrs. Homer Dickson, Horace J. Denner, Nathan Cooper, Hoyt E. Cushman, Don Neuenschwander, Ralph D. Sanders, Kelley E. Griffith and Paul A. Slone. Representatives of the Association included Drs. Ziegler, George H. Fitz, Worthington G. Schenk, Walter E. Dundon, Harold Hillenbrand and Shailer Peterson and Messrs. Bernard J. Conway, Ben F. Miller, III, and John P. Noone. In addition, Bernard J. Beazley, former secretary of the ADA Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations, attended as a consultant.

Paffenbarger Honored by Columbia

Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, ADA's senior research associate at the National Bureau of Standards, has been announced as recipient of the Research Award Medal for 1961. The award goes annually to a person who has made outstanding contributions to dental research and is donated by the Association of Dental Alumni of Columbia University. Dr. Paffenbarger will receive the Medal on Feb. 10 during Dean's Day ceremonies at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

Fluoridation Loses Most Elections

At least one million people were "losers" in the Nov. 8 elections, regardless of how their favored candidates fared, Pres. Patton said last week. That figure, he pointed out, represents the approximate population of communities in which fluoridation proposals are known to have been defeated. As results of fluoridation votes continued to come in, it appeared that voters in only five localities, with a combined population of about 40,000, had approved the procedure. Pres. Patton said the profession had to realize that the facts about fluoridation still aren't "getting across" to the average citizen, and that dentists would have to plan even more carefully and carry out more vigorous educational campaigns on behalf of fluoridation. Communities where fluoridation received a favorable vote were Herington and Phillipsburg in Kansas and Corvallis, McMinnville and Newport in Oregon. Communities where fluoridation was defeated included Cincinnati, O.; Saginaw, Mich.; Freeport, Ill.; Sacramento, Calif.; 14 communities within Marin County, Calif.; Kenton County, Kan.; Faribault and Willmar, Minn.; Joplin, Mo.; Maple Shade, N. J.; Myrtle Point, Ore.; Sunbury, Pa., and Antigo, Monticello, Waukesha and Weyauwega, Wis.

Federal Health Outlay Up 11%

Recent figures released by the Social Security administration show that total expenditure for health and medical care in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1959 was about \$25 billion. This was an increase of 11% over the previous year and constituted 5.4% of the gross national product. The same report also pointed out that: since 1929, public expenditures in this field have risen from 14% to 25%; thirty years ago, 85% of the bills were paid directly to the dentist, physician or hospital whereas now it is only a little more than 50%, and in the past decade, the share of personal health care expenditure paid out of public funds has stayed almost the same while the percentage of public funds utilized for payment has gone down somewhat.

LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL TOPICS CONSIDERED BY SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

Progress of law enforcement against the illegal practice of dentistry and suggested contents of a component society manual were two highlights of the 12th annual State Secretaries' Management Conference held Nov. 17-19 in the central office. The first day of the meeting was devoted specifically to legal topics, a panel discussion being held to consider effective enforcement action through the courts against the unauthorized practice of dentistry. Panel participants cautioned against the attitude that having a law enacted is sufficient action for the profession. Rather, they pointed out, the constituent and component societies have the obligation to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies and to stimulate proper use of the law against unauthorized practitioners. An outline for a component society manual occupied much of the remainder of the conference, formal addresses being presented on various aspects of the question by ADA staff members. Those attending also heard reports from Sec. Hillenbrand on the recently completed Survey of Dentistry, who urged widespread study and implementation of the study, and from Miss Marion Driscoll, executive assistant of the Council on Dental Health, on the forthcoming White House Conference on Aging and its importance to dentistry.

NADL Slates Office Move to Chicago

At its recent convention in Portland, Ore., the General Assembly of the National Association of Dental Laboratories voted to move the headquarters office from Washington, D.C., to Chicago. No definite deadline for the move has been set, but a committee was named to investigate sites and facilitate the move.

Editorial Contest Deadline Set

Deadline for the 1960 William J. Gies Editorial Award is March 1, 1961. Dentists are invited to submit their editorials to the William J. Gies Foundation for the Advancement of Dentistry, Inc., 221 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N.Y. All editorials should be limited to 750 words and published in non-proprietary dental journals in the United States or Canada. Whenever possible, participants are requested to send three copies of each editorial, identified with name of writer, publication name and date.

Medical Care Index Goes Up Again

Labor department figures released on Nov. 25 show that the "Medical Care" section of the consumer price index went to 157.3 in October, a rise of .4 over September. The "Medical Care" section has risen every month of every year since the 1947-49 base period was adopted. No breakdown for dentistry was available yet.

Survey Shows 43 Hour Work Week

Dentists average 43.1 hours a week at the office. Dentists' working hours were analyzed in the latest phase of the 1959 Survey of Dental Practice released by the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics. The 43.1 total was about the same as the number of hours per week reported by dentists who were surveyed in the 1956 study conducted by the bureau. Dentists estimate their work week is broken down into the following parts: 34.2 hours are spent at the chair; 3.8 hours are devoted to laboratory work; 2.5 hours are consumed by other work, and 2.6 hours represent free time. Although 43.1 hours were found to be the average work week, some 17.8% of the dentists spent 50 hours or more per week in the office and 37.5% spent 45 or more hours. Dentists also were asked how many days a year they are absent from work because of illness or other disability. Average number of days varied with age from 1.1 days for dentists under 30 to 5.6 days and 5.2 days respectively for dentists in their 60s and 70s. Although the survey disclosed that dentists in the upper age brackets had the highest average number of days absent, a relatively high percentage of dentists over 60 reported no time off because of illness or disability. More than two thirds of the dentists over 60 reported they had not lost time because of illness, compared to only half of the dentists in their 30s.

Education Fund Drive Succeeds

Success of the first national fund raising campaign to support the program of the Fund for Dental Education was announced recently at the fall meeting of the American Dental Trade Association at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. A framed scroll indicating that the campaign had passed the \$120,000 mark was presented by Henry M. Thornton, president of the ADTA, to Dr. Maynard K. Hine, president of the Fund. Funds raised will be allocated to meet the mounting needs of dental education. The 1960 ADTA Campaign Committee was headed by L. M. Anderson, Jr., president of L. M. Anderson Dental Supply Co. of Tampa, Fla., who served as national chairman. Mr. Thornton, president of The Dentists' Supply Company of York, Pa., was chairman of the Special Gifts Division. Leslie I. March, president of L.D. Caulk Co. of Milford, Del., served as chairman of the Manufacturers' Division, while George A. Davidson, president of the Davidson Dental Supply Co. of New Orleans, La., was chairman of the Dealers' Division.

Health Insurance Continues Growth

According to the Health Insurance Institute, 14 states now have more than 75% of their population covered by health insurance. New York, with 90.7%, leads. Others in the higher brackets are: Conn., 88%; Pennsylvania, 87%; Rhode Island, 86.3%; Ohio, 85.8%; Vermont, 85%, and Illinois, 81.3%. On a regional basis, the nine northeast states show 84.5% coverage; the 12 midwest states, 78.1%; the 13 states of the far west, 66.3%, and the sixteen states of the south, 60%.

Oral Surgeon Fund Tops Goal

The Educational Foundation of the American Society of Oral Surgeons has announced that contributions through the Annual Meeting in October totaled \$26,358, thus exceeding the goal of \$25,000 that had been set. Announcement was made after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, held in Phoenix, Ariz., which attracted 755 participants, 365 of whom were members of the society.

One of 10 Gov't Workers in Health

Health and hospital workers account for 10% of all government civilian employees on the federal, state and local levels, the Health Insurance Institute recently reported. Workers employed in the health and hospital fields totaled 821,000 out of the over-all 8.5 million for the nation in October, 1959. Federal health workers accounted for 168,000; state workers, 319,000, and local government, 334,000. Their combined salaries in October, 1959 was \$250 million, 8% of the total government payroll. Within a five year period, the number of health and hospital workers has increased 24%, while total growth of government employees has been 17%. Practically all of this growth has been on the state and local level, with federal employment increasing only 1%. New York is highest and Alaska lowest in terms of proportion of health and hospital workers per 10,000 population. New York has 62 workers per this unit of population while Alaska has 16.

Alcoholics Group Marks Anniversary

Meeting in Princeton, N.J., 46 physicians and dentists recently observed the 11th anniversary of the founding of Doctors International Alcoholics Anonymous. A spokesman for the organization pointed out that "the drinking problem within the professions is handicapped by the reluctance of doctors to approach the laity groups of A.A." Dentists and physicians interested in learning more about the group were advised to contact James L. Reynolds, D.D.S., Masonic Building, Newton Falls, Ohio.

Summary Survey Copies Available

Copies of the summary report of the Commission on the Survey of Dentistry in the United States are available to the profession. The copies are \$1 apiece and may be requested from the American Council on Education, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., Washington 6, D.C. The ADA Central Office does not have copies available for distribution.