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DENTISTRY PARTICIPATES IN MEETING ON AGING (please see story on page 4)

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DRAFT OF DENTISTS IN THE SPRING SEEN AS LIKELY

The "strong possibility" of a dentist draft in the spring has been disclosed by Herbert C. Lassiter, secretary of the Council on Federal Dental Services. Lassiter said he has been informed by the Defense Department that the number of senior dental students indicating a desire to fulfill military obligations on graduation is "grossly inadequate" to meet dental officer replacement requirements of the armed forces for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Unless the situation improves substantially, the Defense Department will be required to ask Selective Service to order induction of "several hundred" dentists in the spring.

Lassiter said it can be expected that the impact of call-ups will bear most heavily on recent graduates. The council recently advised deans of dental schools to remind senior students with a military obligation of the advantages of volunteering to serve on graduation rather than taking their chances with Selective Service. Defense Department explained that the deferral of a student after graduation depends solely on the determination of the young dentist's "essentiality" by his local draft board. Individuals who have been deferred for completion of their dental training retain the basic two-year service obligation until age 35.

Christensen in Washington Office

Hal M. Christensen, formerly secretary of the Council on Legislation with headquarters at the Central Office, has joined the staff of the Association's office in Washington, D.C. Bernard J. Conway, assistant secretary for legal affairs, will act temporarily as council secretary.

Meeting with Ribicoff Held

Representatives of the Association met Thursday morning in Washington, D. C., with Gov. Abraham A. Ribicoff of Connecticut, Secretary-designate of Health, Education and Welfare. On hand for ADA were Pres. Charles H. Patton, Sec. Harold Hillenbrand and Bernard J. Conway, assistant secretary for legal affairs. No report on the conference was available as this issue of ADA News Letter went to press. But it was expected that discussions centered around development of federal programs designed to improve the dental health of the public. Meanwhile, leaders of American Medical Association are reported to have pledged their cooperation to Governor Ribicoff. Dr. E. Vincent Askey of Los Angeles, president, and three other AMA officials conferred with the governor for an hour and a half Jan. 6 in New York. The subject of health care for the aged marked the discussion. Dr. Askey and his associates told the governor they were "ready and willing" to assist in implementing the Kerr-Mills Medical Aid to the Aged Act, passed at the last session of Congress.

WITHDRAWAL OF SUIT HAILED AS VICTORY FOR FLUORIDATION

Sec. Harold Hillenbrand has hailed as "a significant victory for fluoridation" the withdrawal of a suit filed in Wayne County, Mich., Circuit Court. Dr. Hillenbrand declared the suit was withdrawn, because "it became obvious to the plaintiff that she could not prove any injury resulting from fluoridation." Plaintiff in the case, Mrs. Margaret E. Jones of Highland Park, Mich., agreed voluntarily to withdraw her suit on Jan. 3, when the case was scheduled for trial. Mrs. Jones instituted the action on Oct. 22, 1956, alleging physical injury as a result of the presence of fluorides in the Highland Park water supply. Dr. Hillenbrand conjectured that a major factor in the plaintiff's decision to withdraw was the fact that the defendant, the city of Highland Park, had lined up an impressive array of dentists and physicians to testify to the complete safety of fluoridation. Faculty members at the University of Michigan Dental and Medical Schools and the Michigan State Dental Association were credited by the ADA secretary with playing a major role in the fluoridation victory. In her suit, Mrs. Jones, who is a patient of Dr. George L. Waldbott, Detroit allergist, claimed she suffered an allergic reaction from fluorides in the Highland Park water supply. Dr. Hillenbrand asserted that medical and dental literature reveals no sound basis in scientific fact for such a claim.

More Dentists in Politics

Increased interest in politics on the part of dentists is revealed by results of a survey conducted by the Council on Legislation. The survey indicates that state legislatures convening in 1961 will have greater dental representation than ever before. Reports from 40 states show that 19 dentists hold seats in legislatures. The Pennsylvania body has the most dentists with 7. There is one each in the legislatures of following states: Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Dr. Hicks Named to Council

Dr. Taylor T. Hicks, Prescott, Ariz., has been appointed by Pres. Charles H. Patton as a member of the Council of National Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. Hicks succeeds Dr. Roger K. Trueblood, Glendale, Ariz., who resigned following his election as 13th district trustee at the 1960 annual session. The new appointee will serve for the ad interim term ending with the 1961 annual session, when the House of Delegates will elect a person for the new term ending in 1964.

Relief Fund at 75% Mark

Contributions to the 1960-61 ADA Relief Fund campaign as of Dec. 31 were just shy of the three-quarters mark in the goal of \$125,000. A total of \$93,207, or 74.6 per cent of the goal, had been reported on that date. This represented an increase of almost \$10,000 since the previous report date, Dec. 15. Nine constituent societies had exceeded their goals, while 20 more stood at 75 per cent or better. Relief Fund contributions through Dec. 31 are listed on the enclosed Supplement.

Leaflet Blasts Dental Fallacies

A new leaflet produced by the Bureau of Dental Health Education discredits a number of commonly-held misconceptions about teeth and dental care. Called "Folklore and Fallacies in Dentistry," the six-page pamphlet is considered useful for distribution at PTA meetings and county and health fairs as well as by dentists. Copies of the pamphlet are available from ADA Order Department, 222 E. Superior Street, Chicago 11, at the following rates: 25 for 75 cents; 50 for \$1.25; 100 for \$2.25, and 500 for \$10.

ASSOCIATION NOTES INACCURACIES IN ARTICLE ON FLUORIDE TABLETS

The Association through the Bureau of Public Information has pointed out to Pageant Magazine several inaccurate and misleading statements in a January article on "The Pill That Stops Cavities." It was felt generally that the article by Mrs. Lin Root overstates the case for fluoride tablets to the detriment of the Association position that drinking water remains the best vehicle for providing dietary fluoride for development of decay-resistant teeth.

Title of the article was considered misleading, because fluoride tablets do not "stop" caries. Fluoride ingested continuously during the period of tooth development does help teeth resist decay to a significant degree. But a person, for example, who uses fluoride tablets while eating a diet high in sugar content and neglecting to brush his teeth is not on his way to dental health. Further, once a cavity appears, fluoride tablets will not "stop" its development.

BPI contended that Mrs. Root does not stress nearly to the degree she should that the use of tablets must begin at infancy, if the implied benefit is to be obtained. It was charged further that she grossly underestimates the effort required to administer tablets, which is years of continued, conscientious use for effectiveness.

In the article, Mrs. Root quotes standards of the Council on Dental Therapeutics concerning use of fluoride tablets. They are quoted accurately, but it was felt that the context of the article is such that the reader will assume the Council has the same estimate of fluoride tablets as Mrs. Root.

Two other statements in the article received comment:

STATEMENT IN ARTICLE: Karidium tablets "contain a salt which makes a child throw up if he gets hold of the tablets by accident and swallows some." ASSOCIATION POSITION: While the presence of sodium chloride may have an emetic effect, it cannot insure that the child will "throw up." Mrs. Root's unqualified statement could lead to careless handling in the home with potentially dangerous results. One advantage of a water fluoride program is that it automatically protects against overdosage.

STATEMENT IN ARTICLE: Authorities term fluoride tablets "the best, simplest and cheapest method of fluoridation." ASSOCIATION POSITION: Scientific authorities about whom ADA has knowledge agree that fluoridation of community water supplies is the best, cheapest and simplest method. Annual cost of fluoride tablets, for instance, is at least 10 times the cost per child of a water fluoridation program. It is true that in some parts of the U.S. water fluoridation is not now feasible from an engineering standpoint. In such cases, an alternative technique must be employed. Topical application of fluoride by the dentist and fluoride tablets are such alternatives. From a public health viewpoint, however, they remain second best.

STUDY CITES WATER FLUORIDATION AS PREFERABLE TO TABLETS

Results of a study conducted by three investigators at National Institute of Dental Research indicate that "only about one half of the parents actually continued to give their children fluoride tablets for the necessary number of years." Study results are contained in a report on "Sodium Fluoride Tablets for Children" which appeared in the October, 1960 issue of Dental Progress. Preliminary material from the study was used by the Council on Dental Therapeutics in preparing standards on prescribing supplements of dietary fluorides. The investigators, Dr. Francis A. Arnold, Jr., Dr. F. J. McClure and Carl L. White, concluded that "fluoride taken daily in tablet form has a beneficial effect on the teeth, and such a program might be used in places where children do not have access to fluoridated drinking water." They agreed that water fluoridation remains a more practical and dependable procedure for caries control in large population groups.

MEMBERS OF PROFESSION PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN CONFERENCE ON AGING

Members of the dental profession played key roles in last week's White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C., serving in a variety of capacities and functions. As this issue of ADA News Letter went to press, there was emerging from deliberations a confused picture of how delegates felt about the touchy issue of financing medical care for the aged. Associated Press reported that it appeared support for financing through the social security system would come out of the conference's recommendations because of a ruling by the conference chairman, Robert W. Kean, former New Jersey congressman. But, if this was to be the outcome, it seemed certain there would be a minority report vigorously opposing the social security approach.

Two major sections of the conference split Wednesday over the financing issue. One backed social security, while another favored the present law providing federal grants to states.

The vote favoring social security was taken by the section on income maintenance--the one which conference officials formally had given the task of making recommendations on financing medical care for the elderly. The vote was 170-99.

... Section Backs ADA Position

The opposing view came--by a 165-122 vote--from the section on health and medical care, which was to deal with means of improving health care. Kean directed the chairman of the section, Dr. Leonard W. Larson, president-elect of American Medical Association, to have his group withdraw its formal opposition to social security health insurance. The minority in the medical care group issued a report disagreeing with the majority's view that present legislation was adequate.

Meanwhile, out of additional deliberations of the section on health and medical care came a recommendation for fluoridation. The procedure was praised as "a long range benefit to the dental health of the aging group of the future." Fluoridation received further support in other sections.

Conference fireworks started on the day before the meeting began, with the issue of financing medical care for the aged lighting the fuse. The American Medical Association supported the adequacy of the Kerr-Mills Medi-

cal Aid to the Aged Act. The opposition seemingly was spearheaded by many organizations, including AFL-CIO.

... Association Tells Position

The ADA announced its position on Monday, Jan. 9, reaffirming "opposition to the inclusion of health benefits within the OASDI provisions of the Social Security Act." Said Pres. Charles H. Patton:

"We believe there are other methods which will be more effective in meeting the health care problems of the aged. We do not, however, question the motives of those who differ from us, and we believe our views are entitled to the same consideration. . . ."

Rep. Judd to Address Chicago Meeting

Rep. Walter H. Judd (R-Minn) will address the first general session of Chicago Dental Society's 96th annual midwinter meeting Monday evening, Feb. 6, in the grand ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Also speaking at the 8 p.m. session will be Pres. Charles H. Patton. Scientific phase of the meeting will include an essay program, limited attendance clinics, panels, projected clinics, motion pictures and exhibits. The scientific program has several innovations, including a full-day workshop on oral rehabilitation Monday, Feb. 6, being moderated by Dr. Ernest R. Granger, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., and a full-day course in crown and bridge Tuesday, Feb. 7, being organized and correlated by Dr. Stanley D. Tylman, Chicago. Additional information on the meeting can be secured from Chicago Dental Society, 30 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 2.

This supplement lists contributions to the 1960-61 ADA Relief Fund from constituent societies and federal dental services through Dec. 31. Societies which have reached or exceeded their quotas are listed in capital letters. In addition, an asterisk preceding the name of a society or service indicates that every member of that society has made a contribution in the Relief Fund Campaign.

	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Contri- bution</u>	<u>Pct.</u>		<u>Quota</u>	<u>Contri- bution</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Alabama	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 960.50	86.4	Penn.	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 5,314.50	65.3
ALASKA	70.00	141.00	201.4	Puerto Rico	300.00	138.00	46.0
*ARIZONA	530.00	663.00	125.1	Rhode Island	640.00	238.00	37.2
Arkansas	710.00	559.00	78.7	S. Car.	580.00	395.50	68.2
California	5,120.00	3,946.00	77.1	S. DAK.	360.00	524.00	145.6
Calif. So.	6,340.00	3,920.00	61.8	TENNESSEE	1,690.00	4,649.00	275.1
COLORADO	1,320.00	1,345.50	101.9	Texas	4,300.00	2,692.25	62.6
Conn.	2,410.00	1,886.00	78.3	Utah	680.00	388.00	57.1
DELAWARE	210.00	229.00	109.0	Vermont	220.00	96.00	43.6
Dist of C.	850.00	665.00	78.2	Virginia	1,680.00	1,231.50	73.3
Florida	2,160.00	1,763.00	81.6	Washington	2,420.00	1,861.00	76.9
Georgia	1,370.00	447.00	32.6	W. Va.	840.00	608.00	72.4
HAWAII	530.00	708.00	133.6	Wisconsin	3,340.00	2,018.75	60.4
Idaho	380.00	48.00	12.6	WYOMING	210.00	230.00	109.5
Illinois	8,030.00	6,711.50	83.6				
				TOTAL	\$119,800.00	\$ 90,217.51	75.3
Indiana	2,670.00	2,013.00	75.4				
Iowa	2,060.00	1,568.00	76.1				
Kansas	1,200.00	945.65	78.8				
Kentucky	1,470.00	459.00	31.2	Fed. Dental			
Louisiana	1,290.00	831.00	64.4	<u>Services</u>			
Maine	510.00	366.00	71.8	Air Force	1,270.00	509.00	40.1
Maryland	1,490.00	1,363.00	91.5	Army	1,150.00	565.50	49.2
Mass.	4,370.00	3,886.00	88.9	Navy	1,550.00	763.50	49.3
Michigan	5,370.00	4,605.50	85.8	P.H. Serv.	400.00	272.50	68.1
Minnesota	3,230.00	2,527.00	78.2	Vet. Admin.	830.00	309.50	37.3
Mississippi	700.00	329.00	47.0	TOTAL	\$ 5,200.00	2,420.00	46.5
Missouri	2,810.00	2,114.00	75.2				
Montana	440.00	398.00	90.5				
Nebraska	1,130.00	1,041.00	92.1				
Nevada	170.00	126.50	74.4				
New Hamp.	370.00	177.00	47.8	<u>Summary</u>			
New Jersey	5,000.00	4,388.65	87.8	Constit.	\$119,800.00	\$ 90,217.51	75.3
New Mexico	340.00	293.50	86.3	Societies			
New York	17,720.00	10,760.17	60.7	Fed. Dental			
N. Car.	1,640.00	1,155.00	70.4	<u>Services</u>	5,200.00	2,420.00	46.5
				Students		500.53	
N. Dakota	360.00	233.00	64.7	Memorials			
Ohio	6,130.00	3,880.14	63.3	Miscellaneous		69.00	
OKLAHOMA	1,120.00	1,217.40	108.7				
Oregon	1,630.00	1,163.00	71.3				
Panama	40.00	-	-	TOTAL	\$125,000.00	\$ 93,207.04	74.6