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HEALTH CARE FOR AGED BOGS DOWN

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ADA BACKS PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS FOR AID TO DENTAL-MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Spokesmen told Congress Apr. 28 that ADA strongly supports President John F. Kennedy's bill for aid to medical and dental schools. Testifying before the subcommittee on health of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Dr. William R. Mann, Ann Arbor, Mich., said: "The financial crisis in dental education has reached a critical point; unless there is direct and immediate federal assistance to provide expanded educational facilities, the day will shortly come when there simply will not be sufficient dental personnel to care for the public."

Dr. Mann emphasized that there must be increased financial support from all sources: "alumni, students, foundations, benefactors, business corporations, university funds and public funds." The situation is complicated, he pointed out, by expanding population and increasing demand for dental care. In order to maintain the present dentist-population ratio during the next 15 years, it will be necessary to almost double present dental school capacity, Dr. Mann said. He pointed out that "the equivalent of 23 new dental schools will be needed in the next decade."

Noting that there has been extensive discussion about the advisability of federal support, Dr. Mann said "the ADA officially favors federal aid to education provided such aid does not affect admission policies of the schools or the content of the curriculum. The legislation under discussion meets these requirements." The cost in the coming decade, Dr. Mann said, will be \$242 million for construction of new schools and expansion and restoration of existing schools if the present dentist-population ratio is to be maintained.

A faculty member of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and consultant to ADA Council on Legisla-

Keogh Bill Reported Favorably

The House Ways and Means committee reported favorably Apr. 26 on the Keogh bill, which would permit self-employed persons to defer taxes on self-contributory retirement funds until the funds are actually in use. The committee vote was 18-5. The bill must now be considered by the House itself before being sent to the Senate for its consideration.

A fifteen minute color film in which Congressman Eugene J. Keogh (D-N.Y.) discusses the bill, of which he is leading sponsor, is now available for loan. The film can be obtained from the American Thrift Assembly, Room 612, 1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C. The Assembly asks that \$3 be enclosed with all requests to cover shipping and handling charges. Checks should be made out to the Assembly. It is also requested that, when ordering the film, 3 dates be listed in order of preference.

May 7-13 is National Hospital Week

As in previous years, the American Hospital Association is sponsoring a National Hospital Week during May. The 1961 dates are May 7-13. The purpose of the observance is to encourage greater public understanding of hospitals and their role in the health care of the community.

Florida Court Rescinds Fluoridation

A Circuit Court in Florida has ruled that that state's legislature has not authorized the municipality of Fort Pierce, Fla., to fluoridate its water supplies. It thus issued an injunction against Fort Pierce's carrying out the provisions of its ordinance which provides for fluoridation. The Court's opinion pointed out that it wasn't being asked "whether the State can authorize the fluoridation of the public water supply, but whether the State has, expressly or by implication, granted this power to the City of Fort Pierce."

Fluoridation Wins Twice, Loses Twice

Reports on three more fluoridation referenda and one Council action which took place recently show two wins and two losses. The sole referendum victory took place in Brookings, S.D., where 797 voters favored the fluoridation proposal while 684 opposed. In Abilene, Kan., the referendum was overwhelmingly opposed, 1,529 to 249, while in Wellsville, Kan., it lost 252 to 104. The City Council of Madison, Kan., acted on Mar. 27 to initiate fluoridation in that city, the population being 1,105.

Dr. Cupis Named FDI Observer

Pres. Charles H. Patton has announced appointment of Dr. Basil Cupis of Chicago as an observer from the ADA to the 49th annual session of the Federation Dentaire Internationale. The session will be held in Helsinki, Finland from July 9 to 15.

Reprint Accompanies Newsletter

Accompanying this issue of the Newsletter is a reprint of an article, "Fluoridation's Value," by President-Elect John R. Abel. Appearing originally in The Journal of the Maryland State Dental Association, April, 1961, the article should be of interest to the entire profession. Any organization desiring reprints of the article can write Dr. L. W. Bimestefer, 1 Kinship Road, Baltimore 22, Md. Reprint costs are: 500 for \$13.00; 1,000 for \$17.50, and additional 1,000's at \$10.00.

Health Meet Hears Surgeon General

Participants in the 12th National Dental Health Conference, held in Chicago Apr. 26-27, heard Surgeon General Luther L. Terry pledge his agency's vigorous support for fluoridation of public water supplies. Speaking to over 100 participants, Dr. Terry termed it the most effective and economical weapon against tooth decay. The fact that only one-third of the nation's urban population is being protected by it is, Dr. Terry said, "a startling and disturbing fact." The 1960 elections, when 29 out of 35 communities rejected fluoridation referenda, were, he went on to say, "nothing short of a tragedy." In addition to his pledge for fluoridation, Dr. Terry called for more dental education research and expanded community service.

Other speakers at the Conference presented "case histories" of fluoridation proposals and discussed the use of varied techniques to educate the public about fluoridation. One speaker, Dr. Stanley J. Buckman, Memphis, Tenn. biochemist, suggested the use of petitions in the offices of dentists, physicians and pharmacists as an alternative to referenda on fluoridation. This might, he said, provide a calm atmosphere for deciding the issue in contrast to the emotional one characteristic of referenda.

ADA Founding Commemorated

A plaque placed on the side of the Sears Roebuck building in Niagara Falls, N.Y., highlighted ceremonies Apr. 8 commemorating the founding of the ADA in that city more than a century ago. The Sears Roebuck building stands on the site of the International Hotel where 26 men gathered on Aug. 3, 1859 "with a view to forming a National Delegated Association."

Dr. Wilmer Souder Honored

A Bronze plaque honoring Dr. Wilmer Souder has been presented to the National Bureau of Standards. The donor was Dr. George Hollenbeck, Encino, Calif. Dr. Souder, who was formerly on the Bureau staff, was honored for his pioneering work in dental materials.

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE FOR AGED BILL MAY NOT REACH VOTE THIS YEAR

President John F. Kennedy's bill to place health care for the aged under Social Security may not even reach the floor of Congress this year. This possibility was strengthened by comments of Mr. Kennedy at a recent news conference. Asked if he thought there would be a vote in both Houses of Congress, he replied: "I don't know. If we had a vote in the House it would depend, of course, on the action of the Ways and Means committee...It's possible there will be one in the Senate, which is not restricted by the same rules."

Congressional leaders' comments were even more indefinite. For example, Congressman Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.), chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, when asked if the legislation will be taken up, responded: "we certainly won't take up the bill soon, but I won't go beyond that prediction."

Meanwhile, it appeared as if Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Abraham A. Ribicoff and an AMA official might meet in a nationally televised debate on the merits of President Kennedy's health care for the aged plan. AMA officials issued the challenge to Sec. Ribicoff the week of Apr. 24. He accepted late in the same week. When accepting, the cabinet officer said that two TV networks had expressed an interest in carrying such a debate. He did not identify the networks. The AMA suggested that Dr. Edward R. Annis appear for it, while Sec. Ribicoff said he preferred to meet Pres. E. Vincent Askey.

ADA Asks \$25,000,000 in Health Funds

In testimony delivered Apr. 20, an ADA spokesman asked Congress to vote \$25,000,000 in dental health funds of the U.S. Public Health Service for the coming year. Speaking before the health funds subcommittee of the House Appropriations committee, ADA Ass't Sec. C. Gordon Watson asked that the National Institute of Dental Research receive \$21,350,000 in the coming fiscal year and that a \$2,000,000 increase be granted for the budget of the USPHS Division of Dental Health and Resources. In the present fiscal year, \$15,500,000 was available to these two agencies: \$2,000,000 of which went to the Division of Dental Health and Resources.

In a statement filed with another subcommittee of the House Appropriations committee, the ADA announced support of the proposed 1962 budget appropriation request of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization which deals with the program of the USPHS Division of Health Mobilization.

... SCHOOL

(cont'd from p. 1)

tion, Dr. Mann served as director of the section on education of the two-year Survey of Dentistry in the United States. Dr. Francis J. Herz of San Francisco, vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, accompanied Dr. Mann and introduced his testimony.

ADA Movie Widely Seen in Sweden

A specially edited production of the ADA movie, Pattern of a Profession, was given wide circulation in Sweden during the Centennial celebration of the Swedish Dental Society in 1960. All 27 regional dental associations in that nation viewed the film in addition to some thirty other groups such as Rotary clubs. The film also has been or will be seen in the other Scandinavian countries, most recently in Finland and Denmark. A print of the film has been deposited with the Societa Medica Scandinavica, a large central library for dentistry and medicine in Scandinavia. In a letter to Sec. Harold Hillenbrand, the President of the Swedish Dental Society, Dr. Henry Beyron, noted that "there is hardly a newspaper in the country which hasn't commented on this information activity."

Paris to be Site of Implant Congress

The Third International Congress of the European Association for Odonto-Stomatologic Implants will be held in Paris on July 6-8, according to a recent announcement by that organization. Anyone desiring detailed information concerning the meeting may write Madame G. Zeznec, manager, Societe D'Organization de Congres Francais et Internationaux, 1 Rue Chanez, Paris XVI, France.

Health Group Hits Misleading Ads

At the last annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, that organization's Governing Council adopted a resolution sharply criticizing misleading advertising concerning supposed benefits to be gained by the use of "health products". In commenting on the resolution, Pres. Charles H. Patton noted the ADA's long-standing battle against such abuses and praised the APHA for its "vigorous and helpful action". The resolution reads: "WHEREAS, the use of certain so-called health products and medical and dental proprietaries and services is being promoted by misleading advertising of therapeutic claims which have not been supported by scientific evidence, and WHEREAS the use of these products by the public may lead to a false sense of health protection or benefits, and WHEREAS scientific and professional organizations having competence in testing such products have denounced these health benefit claims and have made such specific recommendations to counteract their promotion and use, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the American Public Health Association supports vigorous enforcement of existing laws and regulations relating to misleading advertising of so-called health products and services, additional legislation where necessary and professional and public efforts to control and minimize the misleading promotion of health products and services."

First Dent Lab Week Set for Sept.

For the first time ever, a National Dental Laboratory Week will be observed this year. The week, Sept. 23 to 30, will be celebrated as part of the tenth anniversary of the National Association of Dental Laboratories. According to NADL President Hoyt E. Cushman, dental laboratories throughout the United States, whether members of NADL or not, are going to be invited to participate in plans for a "clean up, paint up and dress up the laboratory" campaign. Members of the dental profession will be invited to tour the laboratories during the weeklong celebration.

Michigan Begins Prepaid Care Plan

The Michigan State Dental Association approved in mid-April a new prepaid dental care plan to offer to business, industry and labor groups. The plan was presented at the annual session of the Michigan group, and Dr. F. Darl Ostrander, who will head the new Michigan Dental Service Corp., said he anticipated "that one or more prepaid dental care plans will be in operation within a few months." At first, care will be limited to such procedures as fillings, extractions, periodontal treatment, x-rays and dentures. It will be a fee-for-service plan rather than an insurance-type operation and contracts will be between the MDSC and interested groups. Premiums to be paid will be based on utilization, Dr. Ostrander said. He estimated that the first year premium will be about \$32.50 for each member of a group who receives dental care. This premium could well be reduced the second year as long-existing conditions are corrected.

According to the most recent surveys, there are now prepaid dental care plans covering some 580,000 individuals. This is an increase of 40 per cent since 1958. The utilization range of prepaid dental care groups presently averages 50 to 60 per cent. In other words, if a group has 1,000 members, from 500 to 600 see a dentist within one year.

NIDR Tells March Grants, Awards

Seven new research grants and three new fellowship awards were reported for the month of March by the National Institute of Dental Research. The total amount of grants was \$57,950 and of the awards, \$25,919.

Topical Fluorides for 7th Graders

All seventh grade public school students in Philadelphia will receive topical application of stannous fluoride as part of that city's overall preventive dentistry plan. In making this announcement, Dr. Abram Cohen, supervisor of dental services of the public schools, also said a prophylaxis will be provided along with the fluoride treatment.