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## ADA News Letter - 06/01/1961

American Dental Association

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## **MICHIGAN DENTISTS VISIT WASHINGTON** (See page 2)

## **'FIRST FAMILY' DRINKS FLUORIDATED WATER** (See page 3)

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### **ADA REPRESENTATIVES MEET PRESIDENT KENNEDY; DISCUSS DENTAL MATTERS**

ADA representatives met with President Kennedy May 26 at the White House to brief him on current dental affairs. The meeting had been arranged several months in advance but because of the pressure of international affairs, there was some doubt up until the last minute that it would be held. On hand for ADA were Pres. Charles H. Patton, President-elect John R. Abel, Sec. Harold Hillenbrand and Dr. C. Willard Camalier and Bernard Conway, ass't secretaries.

Also attending were two long-time congressional supporters of dentistry, Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.) and Rep. John E. Fogerty (D-R.I.).

In the course of the meeting, Dr. Patton presented to Mr. Kennedy:

--A renewal of the invitation to address the 102nd annual session in Philadelphia, Oct. 16-19.

--A reaffirmation of ADA support of specific parts of Mr. Kennedy's health program, particularly provision of federal funds for construction and renovation of dental and medical schools and scholarships for their students.

--A specially bound copy of the Survey of Dentistry which emphasizes manpower and educational problems in the profession.

President Kennedy, who was preparing to leave for European conferences, allotted almost a half-hour for the meeting, sandwiching it in between conferences with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and John J. McCloy, disarmament advisor.

In accordance with custom, no statement was issued by the chief executive and no formal comment was made on the Association's proposals.

### **House Votes Record Dental Funds**

The House has voted \$16,863,000 for dental research, services and resources for fiscal 1962. The funds were approved May 17 as part of a \$4 billion budget for the Dep't. of Health, Education and Welfare. Of the total allocation, \$14,681,000 will go to the National Institute of Dental Research and the remainder for dental services and resources. Action by the Senate and President Kennedy is still required before the funds are assured.

### **Council Gets Acting Secretary**

Sec. Harold Hillenbrand has announced the appointment of Ben F. Miller III as acting secretary of the Council on Dental Education. He assumes the post June 1 when Dr. Shailer Peterson leaves to take up the deanship of the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry. Mr. Miller has been an assistant secretary of the Council since joining the ADA staff in 1957.

### **Patton Article in Family Weekly**

An article by Pres. Charles H. Patton, "Beware the Dental Bootlegger," appeared in the May 7 issue of Family Weekly. A Sunday supplement magazine, Family Weekly has a circulation in excess of four million.

## MICHIGAN DENTAL GROUP VISITS WASHINGTON FOR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCES

Members of the committee on legislation of the Michigan State Dental Association visited Washington, D.C., May 17-18 to meet with that state's Congressional delegation and discuss pending legislation. Hal Christensen, ADA Washington Counsel, cooperated with H. Leon Snow, MSDA executive secretary, in arranging the itinerary.

In the course of the visit, the dental group met with both Michigan senators and 9 of the 18 representatives. The delegation urged support of such ADA-endorsed measures as the Keogh bill, categorical grants-in-aid for state dental public health activities, aid to dental education and dental research appropriations. In commenting on the two-day visit, Mr. Christensen said, "The trip to Washington by the Michigan dentists was extremely worthwhile. They are to be commended for contributing their time and money to assist personally in advancing the ADA's legislative program. Without exception, the members of Congress were appreciative of this demonstration of well-informed interest." He suggested other state groups might wish to consider emulating Michigan's action and said Dr. C. Willard Camalier, ADA ass't. secretary, and the entire Washington office would be happy to assist.

### Dean Burket Named to Council Post

Dean Lester W. Burket of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry has been named to succeed Dean John E. Buhler of Emory University School of Dentistry to a post on the ADA Council on Dental Education. The appointment is for the ad interim term and will end with the 1961 annual session. At that time, the House of Delegates will elect a person for the balance of the term, ending in 1962. Dr. Burket's appointment will be effective June 5, the date of Dr. Buhler's retirement from his office as dean. The appointment was made by Pres. Charles H. Patton upon nomination by the American Association of Dental Schools.

### Dr. Hine Retains State Health Post

Dr. Maynard K. Hine, ADA trustee and dean of Indiana University's School of Dentistry, has been re-elected chairman of the Executive Board of the Indiana State Board of Health.

## Fluoridation Support Re-Affirmed

A large number of national organizations, headed by the American Medical Association, has re-affirmed support of fluoridation of community water supplies. Acting on the occasion of the 12th National Dental Health Conference, Dr. F. J. L. Blasingame, AMA executive vice-president, sent a message that read in part: "The (AMA) believes that fluoridation of public water supplies is a safe and practical method of reducing the incidence of dental caries from childhood into adulthood...we are happy to offer you our assistance in developing community understanding of fluoridation.

The American Legion has also acted recently to reiterate its previous stance, which called upon its local posts to "give careful consideration to the matter of fluoridation of water as a means of protecting the teeth of children." Other groups re-affirming their favorable position included the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, American Nurses' Association, American Public Health Association, Canadian Dental Association, National Academy of Sciences and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

## Fund Announces Fellowship Awards

Four \$6,000 teaching fellowships have been awarded by the Fund for Dental Education for the academic year, 1961-62. Dr. Maynard K. Hine, Fund President, announced that the successful applicants were Doctors Alden B. Chase, College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, Calif.; Arthur A. Dugoni, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco; Karl K. Nishimura, University of Illinois College of Dentistry, Chicago, and Arthur T. Storey, Rackham School of Graduate studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

## **NATION'S FIRST FAMILY DRINKS FLUORIDATED WATER SAYS DR. JANET TRAVELL**

President John F. Kennedy and his family drink fluoridated water while at the White House, his personal physician has revealed. In a statement issued from the executive mansion, Dr. Janet Travell said: "The President and his family drink the water provided by the District of Columbia, which is fluoridated in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Health Service that communities adopt this measure as a means of improving dental health." Commenting on the statement, ADA Pres. Charles H. Patton said that the "first family" was to be congratulated for "setting a fine example and pointing the way to better dental health." Dr. Patton noted that President Kennedy's predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, also drank fluoridated water while residing in the nation's capitol.

### **Honorary Member Receives High Award**

Dr. Irl C. Schoonover, ADA honorary member and associate director of the National Bureau of Standards, has been awarded the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Gold Medal for Exceptional Service. A chemist by profession, Dr. Schoonover was chief of the dental materials section of NBS from 1945-52.

### **Insurance Plan Offered in New Jersey**

Continental Casualty Company has launched a campaign to introduce its group dental insurance plan in New Jersey. The company is working in close cooperation with the New Jersey Dental Society. Information on the insurance plan is being sent to every New Jersey firm with 100 or more employees and to every state labor organization.

### **Morris to Head New Dental School**

Dr. Alvin L. Morris has been appointed dean of the new University of Kentucky School of Dentistry. Presently with the staff of University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry, Dr. Morris will take up his new duties July 1. The new dental institution is scheduled to accept its first class in September, 1962.

### **Meek to Head National Health Council**

The appointment of Peter G. Meek as executive director of the National Health Council has been announced by Dr. James H. Sterner, NHC president. Mr. Meek will assume his new post Aug. 1. Since 1956, he has been director of the New York office and northeast regional representative for the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

### **Expanded Aid to Ill and Aged Asked**

Expanded dental programs for the chronically ill and the aged in nursing homes were recommended by the ADA at a May 22 meeting in Chicago. Medicine, hospitals and nursing joined with dentistry in considering ways these programs can be broadened. Participating in the meeting at the headquarters of the American Medical Association were members of the Tripartite Committee consisting of the AMA, American Hospital Association and American Nursing Home Association.

The ADA urged that a method of providing payment for dental care be devised for nursing home residents who want the care but are financially handicapped. The payment method, the Association said, should be determined at the community level. Another recommendation was that portable dental equipment be available so that dentists may render necessary treatment in the nursing home for non-ambulatory patients. In addition to several suggestions for dental care for the chronically ill and the aged in nursing homes, the Association statement outlined the roles of the nurse, the dentist and the patient in the program.

### **ADA Staff Resignations Announced**

Sec. Harold Hillenbrand has announced the resignations of Dr. Gory N. Casto, Jr., and Mel Garber from the Central Office staff. Mel Garber, an assistant director of the Bureau of Public Information, leaves his position June 1. Dr. Casto, ADA ass't. secretary and secretary of the Council of Scientific Session, and of International Relations will leave June 30.

## COORDINATION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICE STUDIED BY HARVARD

A five-year training program to explore the economic and administrative coordination of health and medical services is underway at Harvard University under a \$297,510 grant from the U.S. Dep't. of Health, Education and Welfare. Paramount among issues to be explored are 1) establishment of standards against which the adequacy of present services and objectives can be measured; 2) impact of health care requirements of governmental, collective bargaining, group practice and similar programs; 3) the types, numbers and distribution of personnel needed to supply foreseeable requirements; 4) major cost factors affecting care; 5) governmental policy relating to financing and organization of care and training of personnel; 6) prepayment of care through governmental or private means; 7) coordination of public and private activities to produce more comprehensive services, and 8) studies as to the approach made in foreign nations to these problems. In line with the study, a graduate seminar is to be established designed especially for government officials, and a number of sub-studies will be made by faculty, graduate students and persons brought to Harvard as research associates.

### Newark, Del., Study Backs FI's Worth

An average reduction in tooth decay of 60 per cent has been noted among children in Newark, Del., who have been drinking fluoridated water since birth. This and other statistics--based on information secured through an examination of children in the fall of 1960--are contained in a newly issued report on dental findings in Newark children. The Newark water supply was fluoridated in October, 1950. Prior to this, the teeth of 347 children ranging in age from 6 through 10 were examined to establish base line data in the event subsequent studies to determine the effectiveness of fluoridation were desired. The DMF rate per child in 1950 ranged from 1.1 at 6 years of age to 4.9 at 10 years. Comparable rates for the two age groups in 1960 were found to be .34 and 1.75, representing percentage reductions in tooth decay of 69.5 and 64.4, respectively. The average DMF rate for all children examined in 1950 was 2.83 compared with 1.13 in 1960, representing the 60 per cent average reduction.

### Pacific Congress Set for October

The Third Asian Pacific Dental Congress will be held in Tokyo, Oct. 17-22. Details concerning attendance or participation can be obtained by writing Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura, president, Japan Dental Association, 4-chome, Kudan, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, Japan.

### Fluoridation Promotion Urged

More vigorous promotion of water fluoridation was urged during the recent meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors with the Children's Bureau and the U.S. Public Health Service. The dental directors from 44 states also gave high priority to development of criteria for use in planning dental care programs for the chronically ill and aged, and to expansion of dental health education programs. The following ASTDD officers were elected: president, Dr. Linwood Grace, Pennsylvania; president-elect, Dr. David Wallace, New Jersey; vice-president, Dr. Floyd DeCamp, Florida; secretary-treasurer, Dr. E. Alex Pearson, North Carolina.

### ADA Delegation to FDI Changed

Changes have been announced in the list of delegates and alternates to the Helsinki, Finland session of the Federation Dentaire Internationale, July 9-15 that was reported in the Mar. 1 Newsletter. The revised list is as follows: Delegates - Pres. Charles H. Patton, President-elect John R. Abel, Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis of Philadelphia, Dr. Obed H. Moen of Watertown, Wis., and Sec. Harold Hillenbrand. Alternates are Doctors Edward F. Mimmack of Buffalo, N.Y., Maynard K. Hine of Indianapolis, John W. Knutson of Washington, D.C., Carlos H. Schott of Cincinnati and Francis A. Arnold, Jr. of Bethesda, Md. Dr. Basil Cupis of Chicago remains ADA observer for the session.