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CHICAGO FLUORIDATION SUIT NEARS DISMISSAL (See page 3)

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JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS RECORD DENTAL HEALTH FUNDS FOR 1962

A Senate-House conference committee has recommended allocation of a record amount, \$19,840,000, for dental health activities in fiscal 1962. Of this total, \$17.3 million would go to the National Institute of Dental Research and the remainder would be for the Public Health Service's Division of Dental Public Health and Resources. The recommended figure is 28 per cent higher than the amount made available during the present fiscal year.

The conference committee meetings were necessary since the House and Senate earlier in this session voted differing amounts for dental activities as part of the total allocation for the Dep't of Health, Education and Welfare. The House had recommended \$16.8 million and the Senate, \$22.5 million. Action confirming the compromise sum was expected to take place soon in both the House and Senate.

If approved, the fiscal 1962 figure represents a continuance of the Congressional practice of devoting ever larger sums to dental health activities. The fiscal 1962 recommendation is a 300 per cent increase over the fiscal 1957 figure of \$6 million. Allocations for other recent fiscal years are (in millions): 1958, \$6.4; 1959, \$7.4; 1960, \$10.5, and 1961, \$15.5.

Correction

In the Aug. 1 Newsletter story about the recent annual session of Federation Dentaire Internationale, Dr. G. H. Leatherman was listed as "Secretary-Treasurer." His correct title is Secretary General. That story also neglected to note that Dr. Hans Freihofer of Switzerland was re-elected Speaker of the FDI General Assembly.

Scientific Session Highlights Noted

A report on mouth protectors, an essay on the use of ionized fluoride solution in the treatment of sensitive teeth, an all-day forum on management of dental patients with cardiovascular disease and a TV clinic showing a cleft palate operation are among the highlights of the scientific phase of the 102nd ADA annual session, to be held Oct. 16-19 in Philadelphia. More than 350 essays, lectures, clinics, films and exhibits

Planes Grounded

The ADA Housing Bureau has issued a reminder that, due to a civil defense exercise, commercial plane flights will be grounded from noon until midnight, E.S.T., on Saturday, Oct. 14. The Bureau asks that those attending the session take this into consideration in making arrangements. If changes regarding hotel accommodations are necessary, the hotel should be contacted directly.

will be presented. In addition to covering latest developments in the profession, the scientific program will provide refresher courses in a number of areas.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a periodontal prosthesis procedure will be shown via

See Session, p. 4

ADA Members Invited to Int'l Meets

ADA members have been invited to attend and participate in forthcoming dental conferences to be held in Mexico and India. The National Congress of the Mexican Dental Association will be held Nov. 19-23 in Mexico City. Pre-meeting seminars will begin Nov. 16. The All India Dental Association will hold its 17th annual conference at Ahmedabad, Jan. 4-6, 1962. ADA members interested in attending either meeting are asked to contact Sec. Harold Hillenbrand, Central Office, so that he can notify the Mexican and Indian officials of attendance.

Dental Assistants Film Available

A program to interest high school graduates in a career of dental assistance is being launched by the U.S. Public Health Service and the American Dental Assistants Association with release of the film, "The Dental Assistant--A Career of Service." The film shows career opportunities in this rapidly growing field, highlights the varied duties dental assistants perform, and points out the training facilities now available at schools and colleges. It may be obtained from State health departments, or the Communicable Disease Center of the USPHS in Atlanta, Georgia.

North Carolina Law Explained

Further information has now been received on a North Carolina bill reported in the June 15 Newsletter. The bill, sponsored by the North Carolina Dental Society, permits all registered dentists in the state to vote for members of the State Board of Dental Examiners. The new law provides that election of Board members shall be conducted by the Board of Dental Examiners. Nominations will be by written petitions signed by not less than ten dentists and the voting will be conducted by mail ballot. Another bill sponsored by the North Carolina Dental Society was also ratified by the legislature. It provides a mandatory prescription law for all work performed by a dental laboratory for dentists, increases the fees for renewal and duplication of licenses and changes the date for license renewal.

Russian-Speaking Dentist Sought

The United States Information Agency has given notice of a medical mission which will tour three major cities of the Soviet Union during February-June, 1962. A Russian-speaking American dentist is being sought to participate in the mission. Inquiries should be sent to John Dixon, ICS Exhibits Division, U.S. Information Agency Washington, 25, D.C.

Army Develops Plastic Instruments

The Army is perfecting dental and surgical instruments made from plastic, according to Medical World News magazine. The devices, made of polycarbonate resins, are said to withstand high autoclaving temperatures, have high tensile strength and be shock resistant. The instruments can be turned out on a mass basis, thus lowering costs and eliminating the use of strategic materials.

Hospital Institute in November

The American Hospital Association and the ADA will conduct an advanced institute on hospital dental service, Nov. 28-30 at AHA's Chicago headquarters. Discussion topics will include expansion of the established dental service, development of hospital dentistry for the general dentist, the dental service as a diagnostic service to the hospital and the extension of hospital dental service to special patients. A panel discussion will also be held on economic factors to be considered in the operation of a dental service. Detailed information can be obtained by writing Dr. Gerard Casey, secretary, Council on Hospital Dental Service, ADA Central Office.

Casualty Training Courses Scheduled

Two spaces have been reserved for attendance by civilian members of ADA at each of the following Casualty Treatment Training Courses presented by the Navy Dental Corps: Dec. 4-8, U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif.; Apr. 2-6, 1962, U.S. Naval Dental School, Bethesda, Md. Interested members should contact the Council on Federal Dental Services, Central Office.

TWO-YEAR REPORT ON DENTAL INSURANCE DEMONSTRATES PLAN'S FEASIBILITY

The results of two years' experience with the first insured comprehensive dental health care plan in the United States have been made public by The Dentists' Supply Company of New York, the sponsoring company. The program, launched in August, 1959, with the Continental Casualty Company of Chicago as underwriter, is designed to provide complete dental health care covering all phases of dentistry for the 2,300 employees and dependents of the company. The program was pronounced "a complete success" by Henry M. Thornton, company president.

In the second year of the plan's operation, with 92 per cent of the dentists in York County participating, the total number of claims paid showed an increase of 87 per cent over the first year. As of July 31, a total of 3,052 claims had been paid during the two year period. However, the increase in actual dollar expenditures, in terms of total cost of services rendered for claims paid, showed an increase of only 33 per cent. The average cost of services rendered for claims paid showed a drop in the second year to \$39.80, compared with the previous year's average of \$55.99. The report also shows that in the second year the number of maximum payment claims payable under the maximum provisions of the program (i.e., \$300 in the second year) dropped to 21, compared with 32 the previous year.

The Dentists' Supply Company's plan is comprehensive in coverage. 37 per cent of the costs of the dental service rendered was for fixed and removable bridgework and for complete and partial dentures. 36 per cent was for fillings and crowns; 7 per cent in oral surgery and root canal therapy, and 3 per cent in orthodontia. The annual dental examinations and prophylaxis provided for in the plan accounted for 15 per cent of the service costs. The total cost of services rendered for claims paid during the two year period exceeded \$138,500. Accumulated actuarial experience in the first two years of this program, as well as the treatment levels and resulting costs which have been encountered, indicate that comprehensive coverage of this type of dental health insurance may well achieve national acceptance, particularly in the field of management-labor relations.

Fluoridation Victory Near in Chicago

A five-year legal battle over Chicago's right to fluoridate its water supply neared an end Sept. 1 when the Superior Court Master in Chancery who has been holding hearings, Mayer Goldberg, announced he would recommend dismissal of the injunction suit against the city and vindication of Chicago's right to fluoridate. While a court is not bound by a master's report, judges usually follow its recommendations.

The injunction suit, which was filed May 1, 1956, claimed that water fluoridation was unconstitutional and dangerous to health. Fifty-one hearings were held, filling 2,930 pages of testimony. In his report, Mr. Goldberg takes a strong stand on fluoridation's efficacy and safety. He points out that fluoridation is not medication, as generally understood, and that no religious scruples are violated by fluoridation.

Mr. Goldberg's report will be filed with the Superior Court on Sept. 21 and a judge will be named to receive it. A more detailed analysis of the report's significance will be possible after the Superior Court judge has acted and will be made at that time by ADA's legal staff.

Britain's Health Service Raises Fees

Weekly payments for health services and other benefits in Great Britain have been raised 12 cents to \$1.49. At the same time, the amount charged for dentures, which were free until 1951, went from \$12 to \$14. Major reason given for the boost is that National Health Service costs totalled \$2.2 billion in fiscal 1961, nearly double the expense since the plan's inception 13 years ago. The present total amounts to 14 per cent of all government spending.

BROADER FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO DENTAL SCHOOLS FROM USPHS

A new program to provide a broader form of financial support to schools of dentistry as well as of medicine, osteopathy, and public health was announced Sept. 8 by Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. "The prime purpose of this program is to increase the capacity for carrying out research and research training," Dr. Terry said.

Purpose of the grants is to provide general support on a continuing basis for research and research training activities, with greater freedom for recipient institutions in determining specific use of the funds. The program will be administered by National Institute of Health's Division of General Medical Sciences, under the heading of the General Research Support Grants Program.

The funds may be used for the support of research resources, such as animal facilities; for personnel, such as staff salaries; for research or research training projects, including the preliminary exploration of promising ideas; and for certain other activities for which Public Health Service support now no longer will be available, such as research project grants for less than \$2,000 in one year. Eligible institutions interested in the grants this year have already been asked to file a letter of intent with the Chief, Division of General Medical Sciences, and must file a formal application by Oct. 1

... SESSION (Cont'd from p. 1)

television. Made possible by a grant from Wyeth Laboratories, the showing will take place in the Convention Hall Ballroom. On the same day, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Ballroom, a video-tape of a cleft palate clinic will be shown. Originally presented for the American Society of Dentistry for Children, the surgical procedure will be coordinated with a panel discussion on the team approach to the cleft palate problem. The all-day forum on management of patients with cardiovascular disease will also take place Oct. 20 in Convention Hall. Jointly sponsored by the American Heart Association and ADA, the conference will include discussion of coronary heart disease and bacterial endocarditis as related to dental procedures.

The Local Arrangements Committee for the session has also announced that tickets for the social events are becoming scarcer and urges that reservations be made immediately. Checks should accompany reservations and should be payable to ADA.

Briefs In The News ... Dr. J. B. Singleton, Richmond, Va., was elected President of the National Dental Association at its recent convention in Washington, D.C. Dr. James C. Wallace, Chicago, received the organization's "Dentist of the Year" award....Sec. Harold Hillenbrand will receive honorary membership in the American Hospital Association at that group's annual meeting in Atlantic City, N.J. in late September....The Army's first lady dental intern, 1st Lt. Alba R. Zanin, has begun post-graduate training at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C....Melvin L. Dollar has been named executive director of the New York Dental Service Corporation. Dollar was formerly dental consultant for the Continental Casualty Insurance Company, Chicago....Three new exhibits on the history of dentistry have been added in the Smithsonian Institution in the nation's capitol. Eventually, they will form part of a larger exhibition in the Smithsonian's new Museum of History and Technology, slated to open in 1963....The dental health section of the American Public Health Association will hold its annual meeting Nov. 13-16 in Detroit. Information can be obtained from Dr. David F. Striffler, secretary, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor....Lt. Col. Russell W. Sumnicht has been appointed head of the Army's new preventive dentistry branch....PHS has increased stipends for postdoctoral fellowships by \$500. Increase applies to new or continuation fellowships after July 1....Special identifying highway signs are being placed outside all Tennessee municipalities that fluoridate their water systems.