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## ADA News Letter - 12/01/1961

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## JOINT COUNCIL PROGRAM SET

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### PRESIDENT KENNEDY FLAYS EXTREMISTS WHO ARE ANTI-FLUORIDATIONIST

President John F. Kennedy lashed out, in a Nov. 18 speech against right wing "fanatics" who, he said, "sow the seeds of doubt and hate." Included within the President's indictment were those extremists who are opposed to the fluoridation of community water supplies. Speaking at a dinner in Los Angeles, Mr. Kennedy according to the Chicago Tribune, said that the right wingers are "man who are unwilling to face up to the danger from without... They call for 'a man on horseback' because they do not trust the people. They find treason in our finest churches, in our highest court and even in the fluoridation treatment of our water."

In its coverage of the speech, the Washington Post characterized the final part of the above quote as "a crack at right-wingers who say that the fluoridation of water is a Communist plot to weaken the American people."

While this was the first time the President has attacked, in such specific terms, the anti-fluoridationists who think the public health measure is treasonous, there has been no doubt about his feelings on fluoridation. Earlier in the year, he authorized his personal physician, Dr. Janet Travell, to issue a statement that he and his family drink the regularly supplied water of Washington, 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."

### Europe-Bound Endodontist Sought

The ADA is looking for a dentist who will be in Europe during the week of Apr. 23 and would be willing to lecture on endodontics for one of the European dental societies. Details can be obtained from Sec. Harold Hillenbrand, Central Office.

### Relief Fund Nears Mid-Point of Goal

With contributions totaled for only the first four months of the campaign, the 1961-62 Relief Fund drive has already neared the midpoint. As of Oct. 31, contributions amounting to \$58,763.49 have been received. This is 47 per cent of the \$125,000 goal. New York's constituent is leader in dollars contributed with \$7,067, which is 40 per cent of its quota. Constituent societies that have already met, or exceeded, their quotas are: Alaska, 201 per cent; Arizona, 110 per cent, with every member having contributed, and Tennessee, 145 per cent.

### Iowa Supreme Court Refuses Petition

The Iowa Supreme Court, on Nov. 14 announced it would refuse to re-hear arguments in a case where it had upheld the right of the city of Council Bluffs to fluoridate its water supply. The action came as a result of a petition for re-hearing filed by an attorney for Council Bluffs' anti-fluoridationists. The original decision was hailed in Iowa as having wide application since most towns and cities in that state have used or would use the same procedures that Council Bluffs did. (See Oct. 2 Newsletter for details of Court's decision.)

## JOINT COUNCIL TO DISCUSS HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS FOR AGED AT SECOND CONFERENCE

Topics ranging from the "Pros and Cons of Flexible Retirement" to "Advances in Research" will be discussed at the second national conference of the Joint Council to Improve the Health Care of the Aged scheduled for Dec. 15-16 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago. More than 500 persons are expected to attend the two-day meeting at which Dr. Charles H. Patton, ADA immediate past president and chairman of the Joint Council will preside.

Purpose of the conference is to center focus on the current social, economic and health status of the aged, review selected medical research in aging, present successful voluntary programs in improving health care and encourage continued participation and cooperation of all community health agencies in meeting the demands and needs of this growing segment of our society.

Prominent speakers representing the fields of industry, labor, government, civic and religious groups as well as those from the four member organizations of the Joint Council, American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Nursing Home Association and ADA, will be participating in the program. After the opening remarks by Dr. Patton Friday morning, Sam Jaffe, stage and screen actor, who is currently appearing in the part of Dr. David Zorba in the TV series "Ben Casey", will address the meeting.

Among other speakers on Friday, will be John G. Myers, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo; Robert H. Dovenmuehle, M.D., research coordinator at Duke University's Center for the Study of the Aging; Rulon W. Openshaw, D.D.S., chairman, ADA Council on Dental Health, Los Angeles; Raymond Houston, commissioner of Social Welfare, State of New York; John Flack Burton, M.D., chairman, AMA Council on Medical Service and Committee on Indigent Care, Oklahoma City; George Heitler, secretary and staff counsel, Blue Cross Association, New York City; Roscoe Miller, M.D., Ph.D., president, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. and Gerald L. St. Marie, D.D.S., chairman, committee on Gerontology, Connecticut State Dental Association, New Haven, Conn.

## HEW Funds Cutback Affects NIDR

Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Abraham Ribicoff, responding to President Kennedy's call for economy, announced in mid-November that his department's funds will be cut \$102 million. Mr. Ribicoff's decision, it has now been determined, will slice approximately \$1.9 million from the \$13.9 million operating budget originally voted for National Institute of Dental Research. An additional \$106,000 will be taken from NIDR's administrative budget. With the cuts, NIDR's 1962 funds will amount to approximately \$15.3 million, a near match to what was authorized in fiscal 1961.

Of the total NIDR cutback, the biggest reductions will take place in three categories: regular research grants, \$637,000; "chairside assistant" grants, \$550,000, and graduate training grants, \$500,000.

The NIDR reduction is about 11 per cent of the total funds originally authorized. This is the average percentage of cutback for all other components of the National Institutes of Health.

The Division of Dental Public Health and Resources will also participate in the general reduction of funds. Its original authorization for fiscal 1962 was \$2.5 million, of which about \$250,000 will now not be spent.

## Most Service Dentists Belong to ADA

According to a recent survey, most dentists on duty with the armed forces, the Public Health Service and the Veteran's Administration are members of ADA. As of June 30, 1961, there was a total of 6,359 dentists in these services. Of this total, 4,688, or 73 per cent, belonged to ADA. This is a two per cent increase over the same period in 1960.

## Oral B Renews Science Fair Grant

Oral B Company, San Jose, Calif., has continued its support of the ADA's participation in the National Science Fair movement by renewing its annual grant of \$2,500. In commenting on this latest grant from the toothbrush manufacturer, Pres. John R. Abel said that "Oral B deserves the commendation of the Association for its generous and far-sighted support of ADA's efforts to interest the nation's youth in science, especially dental science."

## Dr. John W. Knutson Awarded PHS Medal

Dr. John W. Knutson, former assistant surgeon general and chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. It is the highest award given by the PHS Commissioned Corps. Dr. Knutson was assistant surgeon general from 1952 until July, 1961, when he retired to join the faculty of the new UCLA dental school.

## Texas Sets Precedent in Care for Aged

Texas has become the first state to insure health care for the aged through a private insurance company. A contract was signed Nov. 15 between the state and Blue Cross of Texas. More than 220,000 persons on the old age assistance rolls would become eligible on Jan. 1, 1962 for hospital care. Authorized under the Kerr-Mills act, the program will cost an estimated \$24 million over 20 months. If approved by the Dep't of Health, Education and Welfare, the federal government will pay about 75 per cent of the cost, with the state paying the balance.

Under the plan, the state pays Blue Cross a \$8.68 premium a month per person. The contract provided 15 days of hospitalization at \$10 a day for bed and board and then \$5 a day with no time limit. Auxiliary charges (drugs, laboratory fees, etc.) are fully covered for 15 days, after which the plan will pay half. The plan covers major surgery up to \$200 and minor surgery for accidents when performed within 24 hours, even if hospitalization is not required.

## Fluoridation Action in Canada

Fluoridation of the water supply in Windsor, Ontario has been authorized by the city council, according to the Windsor Star. A referendum will be held in December, 1962, but the public health measure will be instituted in the meantime. Windsor's population is about 130,000.

In two of Canada's other large cities, fluoridation did less well. In both, the fluoridation referenda failed to reach the necessary level of approval, two-thirds of the votes. Edmonton, with a population of about 225,000, voted 49 per cent in favor of the public health measure while Calgary, with a population of some 190,000, voted 62 per cent in favor. An analysis of the Calgary returns showed that some 42 per cent of the total electorate cast ballots. Upper middle and high income areas in the city favored fluoridation, while in lower income areas a majority registered disapproval.

In two smaller cities, St. Albert and Athabasca, fluoridation was voted in.

## Danish Dental Leader Addresses Staff

Professor P. O. Pederson, dean of the Royal Dental College of Copenhagen, Denmark and internationally known dental leader, addressed the Central Office Staff in November, showing slides and a movie he made in Greenland several years ago. Prof. Pederson was in the United States to receive the Callahan Memorial Award from the Ohio State Dental Association. While in this country, he also delivered an address at the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Walter G. Zoller Memorial Dental Clinic, University of Chicago.

## Research Bureau Offers Pamphlets

Three new pamphlets, bearing on different areas of dentistry, are now available from the ADA Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics. They are Survey of Hospital Dental Departments, Survey of Public Attitudes Regarding Dentures and Survey of Dental Laboratory Industry. Single copies may be obtained without charge from the Bureau, Central Office.

## Brushing Kit For Lower Grades Offered

A new toothbrushing kit, for use in the first or second grade, is now available from ADA. Each kit contains material for a classroom of 35 children. It includes a leaflet, "You Can Teach Toothbrushing", for the teacher, 35 children's toothbrushes, 35 small posters and 35 leaflets, "Help Your Child to Good Dental Health" one for the parents of each child. The kit was designed to help assure that children will use their toothbrushes correctly and regularly by supplying information on the importance of proper brushing for teacher, children and parents, in addition to the brushes. The kits may be purchased from the ADA Order Department, Central Office. The price is \$3.00 each.

## Dental Fraternity Endows Loan Fund

Tau chapter of Xi Psi Phi dental fraternity recently presented \$10,000 to the Washington University dental school, St. Louis, to establish two student loan funds of equal value. The first fund will be called the Xi Psi Phi Benno E. Lischer Memorial Loan Fund, in honor of the former dean of the school. He was a pioneer in orthodontics and a past-president of the American Association of Dental Schools. This fund will be available to all students. The second fund, Xi Psi Phi Scholarship Loan Fund, will be available to members of that fraternity only, and elected by its members. Both funds will be administered by the Scholarship and Loan Committee of the School of Dentistry. In accepting these two funds, which are the second largest in the school, Dean Leroy R. Boling commented that financial aid for dental students is one of the profession's great needs, and that he was especially pleased that aid had come from the students themselves.

## Bureau Offers Package Libraries List

The ADA Bureau of Library and Indexing Service has prepared a new list of dental books published between January, 1958 and September, 1961 as well as of package libraries available from the Bureau. The new listing is available from the Bureau, Central Office.

## Two Dental Schools Plan New Facilities

The dental schools of the University of Detroit and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, have announced plans to move to new quarters.

The West Coast institution recently revealed plans for a \$5 million building to house its dental school. The new building will be located in the Presbyterian Medical Center with which the College recently affiliated. Land has already been acquired and construction is slated to be completed by January, 1964.

The University of Detroit's dental school sought new quarters when it learned that its present headquarters will be razed to make way for an expressway. A former office building of the Chrysler Corp. has been purchased. The new location will provide expanded clinical facilities and a larger student enrollment and is near hospital and medical school facilities affiliated with the University. The present building must be vacated by July, 1963 but school officials expect the move to be made somewhat in advance of that deadline.

## Health Plan Proposed for Puerto Rico

A medical care plan financed by withholding taxes, and including dental care has been proposed for Puerto Rico by the Minister of Health, Guillermo Arbona. The plan would provide care for Puerto Rico's 2.3 million people in somewhat the same way as care is provided in Great Britain. Patients would use private doctors of their own choice who would be reimbursed according to a schedule worked out with the group medical plans involved. The program will be financed by a 1.5 per cent withholding tax on wages from employers and another 2 per cent from employees. It is expected to cost \$44 million a year. For families with annual incomes below \$2,500, about 60 per cent of the population, dental, medical, surgical and rehabilitation treatment would be free. Those with incomes above this level would, presumably, pay part of the cost themselves.