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## ADA News Letter - 12/02/1963

American Dental Association

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## **FLUORIDATION MAY PROLONG LIFE (See Page 3)**

*Vol. 16, No. 21*    *Monday, December 2, 1963*  
*published by the AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION*  
222 East Superior Street • Chicago 11, Illinois

### **MAYOR WAGNER PREDICTS FLUORIDATION ACTION IN NEW YORK BY DEC. 19**

At the end of a 20-hour public hearing on fluoridation Nov. 19 in New York City, Mayor Robert Wagner issued a strong pro-fluoridation statement and predicted that a final decision would be made on the measure either Dec. 5 or Dec. 19. The mayor said, "on the basis of these hearings there is no doubt that the overwhelming weight of competent scientific information in the nation and in New York City itself, is that water fluoridation is effective, safe and urgently needed." The hearing before the Board of Estimate and the City Council ended at 6:13 a.m. Nov. 19 after more than 100 of the 350 scheduled witnesses had testified. The mayor, who called for action on the proposal "as promptly as possible," said he opposed any delay to permit a referendum. "If we have a referendum on everything, then we don't need a government," he added.

Mayor Wagner said he was impressed with the reports about the "appalling condition" of the teeth of many New York children. Despite a 30 per cent expansion in the last five years, the Health Department's dental program is "meeting only one-tenth of the needs of New York City children," he said. He noted that the medical testimony revealed that fluoridation is safe and "eventually will reduce tooth decay by 60 per cent."

The ADA testimony was presented at the hearing by Dr. Charles H. Patton, past president of the Association, and Dr. J. Roy Doty, ADA assistant secretary, and secretary of the Council on Dental Therapeutics. They urged New York City officials "to

### **Dental Films CINE Winners**

CINE awards, presented by the Annual Committee on International Non-Theatrical (film) Events, have been given two dental films sponsored by the ADA. "Play For Keeps," an ADA film produced in 1962, and "A Concept of Jaw Function with a Related Clinical Application," prepared by Dr. Theodore Messerman of Cleveland, were the winners. This marked the first year that dentistry was entered in the world-wide film competition. Daryl Miller, director of the ADA Bureau of Audiovisual Service, accepted the film awards on behalf of the Association.

### **ADA Sends Condolences to Mrs. Kennedy**

The following telegram was sent to Mrs. John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22: "On behalf of the officers and trustees of the American Dental Association, may I express our profound sorrow at the death of President Kennedy. You have the deepest sympathy of the profession for you and your family. Signed James P. Hollers, D.D.S., President."

### **Joint Commission Bulletin Slated**

An Information Bulletin on the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Dental Laboratories will be mailed to all members during the first week of December.

### **... Mayor Wagner** (Cont. From Page 1)

bring the benefits of fluoridation to your children and to all future generations of New Yorkers." Dr. Patton said that fluoridation "has received the unqualified approval of every major health organization in the United States and of many other countries," and went on to explain that "acceptance has been hampered by the efforts of small, strangely motivated groups whose real or announced objectives are usually obscure. These groups employ every device of propaganda, including distortion, untruth and personal attack, to weaken the confidence of the public in this health-giving measure." He added: "These groups also have a talent for issuing frightening and irresponsible statements and advertisements immediately prior to a hearing such as this."

Dr. Doty reported that the American Dental Association withheld its endorsement of fluoridation until after many years of observation and study. "Fluoride is a trace element in nutrition and water is a natural source of this nutritional element," he said. "There is probably no item other than water that is common to the diet of American children and that regularly supplies substantial amounts of fluoride. Some fluoride is found in virtually all drinking water supplies but the level may vary widely from one source to another. Consequently, the adjustment of fluoride in the drinking water does not require any change in diet patterns." He added: "Fluoridation is a classic example of a public health procedure since it serves the entire population, requires no conscious and sustained effort on the part of the individual and restricts consumption of the fluoride supplement to levels which have been shown to be safe."

According to reliable sources in New York, 14 of the 22 votes on the City Council have now been publicly committed in favor of fluoridation.

### **'One-Third' Medicare Plan Proposed**

A "One-Third" medical plan linking the federal government, private insurance plans and the individual has been proposed as a compromise solution by the National Committee on Health Care For the Aged. The group included two former secretaries of Health, Education and Welfare, Marion B. Folsom and Arthur S. Flemming. Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.-N.Y.), at whose suggestion the committee was formed last year, announced he will introduce the bill shortly. The three-way medical cost split would be as follows: one-third would be paid by a government insurance plan financed through a social security tax increase; one-third would be financed by private insurance firms given tax benefits and exempted from anti-trust laws, and one-third would be paid by the individual. The proposal would still be in basic opposition to the Association's policy on health care for the aged.

### **USPHS Urges Mouth Protectors Use**

High school and college football players have been cautioned by the U.S. Public Health Service to wear mouth protectors. Injuries to the face and mouth account for more than half of all football injuries, according to Dr. Donald J. Galagan, assistant surgeon general and chief of the Division of Dental Public Health and Resources. A rule adopted by the National Alliance Football Rules Committee last year makes the wearing of a mouth protector mandatory for all players under its jurisdiction.

### **Education Fund Launches Campaign**

The American Fund for Dental Education has launched a special fund-raising campaign. The campaign will give dentists an opportunity to support the Fund's broad program which benefits all dental schools, according to Fund President, Dr. Raymond J. Nagle of New York. The Fund, which has given nearly \$1 million to aid dental education, is sponsored by the ADA, the American Association of Dental Schools and the American Dental Trade Association.



On February 5, 1964

## THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

*in cooperation with local dental societies will present*

# THE DICK VAN DYKE SHOW



**THE SHOW** The Dick Van Dyke Show is an established family favorite. It is broadcast nationwide by CBS on Wednesday evenings at 9:30 PM, E.S.T., 8:30 PM, C.S.T., 7:30 PM, M.S.T., and 9:30 PM, P.S.T. Over 38 million people watch the Dick Van Dyke Show each week.

**THE MESSAGES** All commercial time on the February 5th show has been donated to the American Dental Association and its local societies. The Association will develop messages designed to impress viewers with the importance of the family dentist in improving and maintaining dental health. A short segment of time will be available to the local society in each area so that a representative may present a brief message on the program. Specifics about the messages will be forthcoming shortly.

**PROMOTION** Materials for promoting the show will be shipped automatically to NCDHW Chairmen and orders for special materials will be handled promptly. The show offers a focal point for NCDHW and will help you obtain increased cooperation from schools, local television stations, and newspapers.

**SPONSORSHIP** The Crest Toothpaste Division of Procter & Gamble has donated the entire show to the dental profession as part of its continuing program to improve public knowledge about and interest in regular professional dental care.



*Join  
Dick Van Dyke  
in promoting*



**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH WEEK PROGRAM**

## Fluoridation May Prolong Life

An autopsy study in New Britain, Conn., has revealed that fluoridation not only causes no harmful changes in body tissue but that it may be a factor in prolonging life. Dr. Paul D. Rosahn, New Britain pathologist, told a meeting of public health directors that his study showed that there had been no significant changes in death rates due to kidney, cardiovascular, liver and cancer diseases. The study involved 3,296 human autopsies from 1937 to 1962. New Britain was the first in the state in 1951 to add fluoride to its water supply. He said: "I am convinced that fluoridation of the New Britain water supply in amount of one part per million of fluoride has produced no discernible tissue changes that can be ascribed to fluoride per se." Any tissue changes observed during the study period can be explained by other variables, he stated. He pointed out that there is "suggestive evidence, still under review, and not yet fully authenticated, that a fluoridated water supply may possibly be one of several variables which have been responsible for the prolongation of life, or postponement of death. He said that the percentage of all deaths for those people under the age of 20 decreased from 21 to 17 per cent by comparing the "before" fluoridation period autopsies to those in the "after" period.

## Headquarters Subcommittee Announced

Dr. Fritz A. Pierson, ADA president-elect and chairman of the Special Committee on Association Headquarters, has announced the following Subcommittee to the Special Committee: Dr. Laurence L. Lathrop, chairman, Dr. E. Jeff Justis and Dr. Hubert A. McGuirl. The duty of this subcommittee will be to present a report at the next meeting of the Special Committee on the establishment of a so-called "Century Club" program in connection with the building project and to report on the desirability of developing a program through which constituent and component societies might contribute to some special feature in the new building.

## Fluoridation Wins In 5 Cities

Fluoridation was approved in five, retained in one and voted down in seven communities during November referenda. The measure won in Burlington City and Wharton, N.J.; Alliance, Ohio; Charlottesville, Va., and Franklin, Ky. Fluoridation was retained in Newton, Mass. Fluoridation lost in Cambridge, Worcester, Fitchburg, and Leominster, Mass. The measure also lost in Bridgeton, and Geneva, N.J., and Coshocton, Ohio.

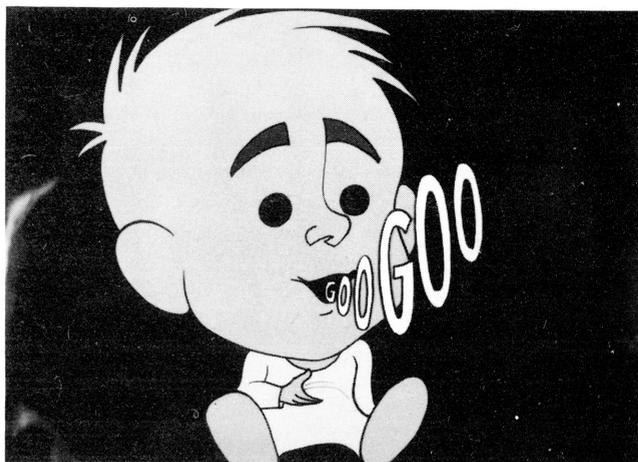
Villisca, Iowa, with a population of 1,690, has started fluoridating its municipal water supply. There are approximately 50 fluoridated water supplies in Iowa serving over 57 communities with a total population of about 905,550.

## Children's Dental Care Lack Cited

One-half of the nation's children under 15 years have never been to a dentist, according to a report by the Children's Bureau, Welfare Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. A study conducted by the Bureau, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U. S. Public Health Service, revealed that although dental caries is the "most common physical defect among school children, one-half of the children under 15 have never been to a dentist; and of the remaining half, a sizable proportion are not receiving adequate care." The report continued that "nonwhite children receive considerably less dental care than white, farm, less than rural nonfarm; those from low income much less than those from high income families."

## Urge Druggists' Efforts For NCDHW

An article in the December issue of American Professional Pharmacist outlines ways in which pharmacists may cooperate with local dental societies in observance of 1964 National Children's Dental Health Week (Feb. 2-8). Local NCDHW chairmen have information concerning the various items mentioned in the article or may obtain it from the ADA Bureau of Dental Health Education.



The importance of primary teeth in children is emphasized in the ADA's new one-minute cartoon film. The film notes that with proper care, the primary teeth should remain in place until the permanent teeth are ready to come in. This was the fifth in a series of one-minute health message TV spots and copies of the film have been mailed to 135 television stations across the country.

### 1964 Session Applications Available

Applications for participation in the 1964 scientific session and in the annual session film program are now available from ADA Central Office. The Council on Scientific Session will consider applications for the following programs: clinical lectures (20 minutes); free-time discussions (10 minutes); table clinics and scientific exhibits. Applicants are requested to specify the program in which participation is desired. Applications for presentation of motion pictures should be directed to the Bureau of Audiovisual Service, Central Office, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

### Trustee Districts Committee Named

Pres. James P. Hollers has appointed the members of the Special Committee on Trustee Districts as authorized by the House of Delegates at the Atlantic City annual session. The appointees are: Drs. Harry Lyons, Richmond, Va., chairman, Medical College of Virginia, School of Dentistry; William McGill Burns, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Keith DeVoe, Columbus, Ohio; Charles E. Hebert, Jr., New Roads, La.; Billy F. Pridden, Antioch, Calif. Dr. Gerald D. Timmons, Philadelphia, ADA immediate past president, was named a consultant to the committee.

### Chicago Dentists Oppose Smoking

The Chicago Dental Society has passed a resolution approving development of an educational program for its members to inform their patients of the harmful effects tobacco can have on oral and general health. The resolution also requested that the Chicago Dental Society request the Illinois State Dental Society to approve a similar policy and establish a similar educational program for the dentists and the general public throughout the state.

### Dental Dealer Aids Education Fund

The American Fund for Dental Education has commended L. M. Anderson Dental Supply Co., Tampa, Fla., for a \$760 contribution to the Fund. The sum was received from 38 dental manufacturers which, complying with a request by the firm, sent money rather than flowers to an open house celebration for Anderson's new offices in Orlando, Fla.

### Morgan Joins Sales Department

Robert G. Morgan of Hinsdale, Ill., has been appointed to the staff of the ADA Department of Sales and Advertising, Sec. Harold Hillenbrand has announced. Mr. Morgan was previously employed by the Topics Publishing Company, a publisher in the drug field.