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Connecticut Planning Statewide Fluoridation (See Page 2)

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ADA PRESIDENT URGES CONGRESS TO STUDY KERR-MILLS EXPANSION PROPOSALS

Dr. Fritz A. Pierson, ADA president, has urged Congress to explore proposals which would strengthen and expand health care for the elderly under the existing federal-state Kerr-Mills program. At the same time he reiterated the Association's continued adamant opposition to any legislation which would provide health care to the elderly under the Social Security system. Speaking last week at the centennial dinner held in connection with the Midwinter Centennial Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society, the ADA leader pointed out that the current version of the King-Anderson bill, H.R. 1, now before the House Ways and Means Committee, would "provide health benefits for a segment of the population without regard to the needs of individual beneficiaries."

"The Association does not believe that government should assume the additional responsibility of providing health care to persons who can easily afford it simply because such persons happen to be in one age group or another. Extension of the concept that health care should be provided by the government without regard to need will lead ultimately to a regimentation of the health care system in this country - a regimentation that will lower health care standards which are now the highest in the world. The Association recognizes that existing mechanisms for providing health care to the aged are not perfect, but believes that improvements to the Kerr-Mills program will meet the problem without harming the existing private health care system and without detracting from the proper and necessary role of the government in many health programs."

Dr. Pierson noted that many improvements to Kerr-Mills are already in bill form before the Committee. "This includes the Herlong-Curtis plan, strongly espoused by the American Medical Association," he said. The national dental leader then urged Congress to give serious consideration to amendments which would:

-- Make entitlement to benefits dependent solely upon income rather than upon assets and the ability of children to contribute, and permit states to confirm a person's income statement by reference to his federal income tax return;

-- Give additional financial incentive to states which would adopt a basic benefit plan;

-- Make such basic benefit plan available to all those whose income is below a prescribed level;

-- Allow states to adopt a sliding scale of income test permitting financial contributions from persons able to do so;

-- Permit state health departments or equivalent agencies to have responsibility for administering the program;

-- Authorize administration by private nonprofit prepayment agencies or insurance carriers.

Court Upholds N.Y. Fluoridation

The State Supreme Court of New York recently upheld the constitutionality of the proposed fluoridation program for New York City which is expected to begin in early spring. Judge Joseph A. Brust's ruling came in response to a lawsuit aimed at preventing the city from fluoridating its water supply. The suit was filed last year by Dominick F. Paduano, former city water commissioner, and three other persons. Judge Brust observed that fluoridation was a health question and therefore within the jurisdiction of the city's health department. "The fluoridation program is obviously directed toward the security of the life and health of the citizens of New York City, and is an attempt to cope with the serious and growing public health problem of tooth decay and dental neglect, particularly among children," he stated.

Two Special Committees Named

President Fritz A. Pierson has announced appointment of two special committees. Appointed to the Special Committee of the Association on Trustee Districts were: Drs. Harry Lyons, chairman, Richmond, Va.; Frank P. Bowyer, Knoxville, Tenn.; William McGill Burns, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Keith DeVoe, Columbus, Ohio; Charles E. Hebert, Jr., New Roads, La.; William P. Humphrey, Denver, Colo.; Roland L. Lindstrol, St. Paul, Minn.; Billy F. Pridgen, Antioch, Calif., and Gerald D. Timmons, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Appointed to the Special Committee of the Board of Trustees on Research were: Drs. Maynard K. Hine, chairman, Indianapolis, Ind.; Harold Eberhardt, Minneapolis, Minn.; William Garrett, Atlanta, Ga.; Leland Hendershot, Chicago, Ill., and Gerald D. Timmons, Scottsdale, Ariz. Serving as consultants are: Drs. J. Roy Doty and Sholom Pearlman, both of Chicago; and George Paffenbarger and Edward Hampp, both of Washington, D.C.

Fluoridation Gains In Canada

Fluoridation was recently approved in 13 Canadian communities.

Conn. Okays Fluoridation Regulation

The Connecticut Public Health Council has adopted a regulation which will require all major communities in the state to begin fluoridating their water supplies. All communities in the 20,000 to 50,000 class with fluoride-deficient supplies will be required to initiate fluoridation by Oct. 1, 1967. Communities over 50,000 population will be required to begin by Jan. 1, 1967. The regulation became effective when it was published in the Feb. edition of the Connecticut Law Journal. Like all regulations, this action must be reviewed by the state legislature.

Fluoridation To Stay In Lansing

Voters of Lansing, Mich., a city of about 150,000, on Feb. 15 decided four to one in favor of continuing fluoridation. The measure has been in effect since 1963 when the City Council approved it. Action by opponents of the measure resulted in having it placed on the primary election ballot, according to Dr. Mark M. Spagnuolo, chairman of the fluoridation committee of the Central District Dental Society. Dr. Spagnuolo's committee spearheaded efforts by the profession to continue fluoridation in Lansing.

AADE Starts Manpower Study

The American Association of Dental Examiners has undertaken a comprehensive study and analysis of the distribution and availability of dental health services in cooperation with the ADA and financed by the U.S. Public Health Service. AADE was enlisted in the vital dental manpower and auxiliary study project because it is the only organization which has direct contact with all dentists and dental hygienists through the 50 dental state board agencies during their annual or bi-annual registration periods. Mr. Donald Hammond has been retained as the administrator of the study project in the central office of AADE, Room 311, 152 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. The study, already under way in five pilot states, should result in the first complete compilation of total dental manpower in the U.S.

DR. SPOCK RECEIVES PHS AWARD FOR DENTAL HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Benjamin Spock, internationally known pediatrician, on Feb. 12 received an award from the Division of Dental Public Health and Resources of the U.S. Public Health Service for his "continued and invaluable efforts in advancing the dental health of children." The ceremony was held in the Cleveland Health Museum in connection with National Children's Dental Health Week. The plaque was presented by Dr. Donald J. Galagan, assistant surgeon general. Dr. Maynard K. Hine, ADA president-elect, who participated in the ceremony, also paid tribute to Dr. Spock.

"By reassuring parents of the safety and efficacy of fluoridation, Dr. Spock has done much to win acceptance for the public health measure. Coming from him, it meant more to these people than from anybody else," he said. "Dr. Spock has long been in the vanguard of those giving unequivocal endorsement of fluoridation," Dr. Hine continued, adding: "He has particularly endorsed fluoridation for children, the age group for which he has become a generally recognized spokesman through his writing. He has frequently contributed the prestige of his name and reputation to films and printed material in the campaign for fluoridation." Dr. Hine cited Dr. Spock's service as chairman of the Committee to Protect Our Children's Teeth, which prepared a digest of expert opinion on fluoridation for New York City officials. New York will be the largest city in the world to fluoridate when it puts the measure into effect later this year.

Danish Dentists Honor U.S. Dentists

The House of Delegates of the Danish Dental Association has adopted a resolution praising U.S. dentists for "exceptionally valuable services rendered to Denmark and to Danish dental science during the post-war years through the adoption of a large number of Danish dentists in universities, research institutions, hospitals and clinics in the United States with the generous aid of American and American-Danish governmental and private institutions and foundations." The resolution was presented to the American Ambassador to Denmark to be forwarded to the ADA.



Dr. Benjamin Spock, second from left, noted pediatrician, was honored Feb. 12 in Cleveland by the U.S. Public Health Service for his service in support of children's dental health. Shown from left are: Dr. Glen Smith, Cleveland health officer; Dr. Spock and Mrs. Spock; Dr. Donald J. Galagan, USPHS assistant surgeon general, and Dr. Maynard K. Hine, ADA president-elect.

Career Information Requests Double

Requests for career information from the ADA Council on Dental Education have doubled in the past year. The Council's division of career guidance reported that in 1963, a total of 9,434 requests were received and processed by the division. The 1964 figure reached 19,525 requests handled. Requests were from individual students, dental societies, career guidance counselors and individual dentists.

ADR Receives Mead Award

Accepted Dental Remedies, published annually by the Association, has received the Mead Award in a nationwide graphic arts competition. ADR was cited for its "obviously competent organization of a large volume of technical material, and its presentation in a dignified format with nice typography and excellent presswork."



Dr. Harry Lyons, left, ADA past president and dean of the School of Dentistry, Medical College of Virginia, receives medallion designed for the centennial observance of New York University's College of Dentistry from Dean Raymond J. Nagle. Dr. Lyons was principal speaker at the special ceremony unveiling the centennial plaque.

44 States Have MAA Programs

Medical assistance to the aged (MAA) programs under the Kerr-Mills law are available in 44 of the 54 jurisdictions eligible with the recent adoption of such programs by Indiana, Rhode Island and Delaware. In Georgia, New Mexico and Mississippi, the necessary enabling legislation has been enacted, but funds either have not been appropriated or are not yet available. Georgia intends to begin its MAA program in 1966, while the New Mexico legislature will consider a budget request for funds this year. Enabling legislation has not been enacted yet in Alaska, Arizona, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio and Texas.

Health Insurance Grows

The U.S. Public Health Service has disclosed that of the estimated 16,800,000 persons over 65 living outside of institutions, approximately 9,100,000 have some form of health insurance. In addition, a rapid growth in health insurance coverage during the past 30 years was noted, with an estimated 128,700,000 persons -- about 75 per cent of the civilian population -- having some form of coverage.

Cites NCDHW In Congressional Record

National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 7-13, was cited by Rep. John P. Saylor of Penn. in the Congressional Record of Feb. 8. He commended Dr. Walter F. Hrin, Johnstown, president of the Pennsylvania Society of Dentistry for Children; the Pennsylvania Dental Association, and dental societies in all states for the annual observance. "As it has often and truly been said, the health of our people is the nation's most valuable resource," he said. "The intimate relationship between dental health and general well-being is well-established and it seems to me that Children's Dental Health Week is a good time for all of us to keep in mind that our high rate of dental disease could be reduced drastically and swiftly if each individual would cooperate more closely than ever before with the profession, both in regard to his own health and that of the youngsters in his family."

Dentists Urged To See New Film

Dr. C.V. Rault, president of the American Association of Dental Schools, has urged all dental societies, study clubs and schools to see the newly released film, "Step Up Dental Education." Dr. Rault said the film is a "challenging" study of the current academic and economic problems facing the nation's 50 dental schools. The film was released this month in advance of the American Fund for Dental Education's dental personnel campaign in May. It features a discussion by Dr. Gerald D. Timmons, retired dean of Temple University School of Dentistry, and Dr. Raymond J. Nagle, AFDE president and dean of New York University College of Dentistry. The 28-minute 16mm film is available without charge from the ADA Bureau of Audiovisual Service at the ADA Central Office.

Poison Prevention Week March 14-20

Poison Prevention Week, sponsored annually by the U.S. Public Health Service, will be held March 14-20, 1965. The ADA is a member of the planning council.