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UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM POSSIBLE WITHIN DECADE, SCIENCE WRITERS TOLD

A system of universal health care for the American people will be developed during the 1970s without bankrupting the country -- but only if the present medical health system is drastically reorganized. This statement was made at a meeting sponsored by the Council of American Science Writers to discuss "health care for all."

Notes cost increase

Max Fine of Washington, executive director of the Committee for National Health Insurance (CNHI) noted government projections show outlays for personal health care services in the United States rising from \$58 billion in 1970 to between \$96 and \$102 billion in fiscal 1974.

A national health insurance plan or some other form of broadened health care is a top-priority agenda item as the 92nd Congress convenes, he said.

The need for "revolutionary" changes in the training and supervision of health personnel are essential if the inflationary spiral of health costs is to be stemmed, he stated.

Fine's committee supports a bill to be introduced in Congress by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.) calling for broad health coverage for all Americans regardless of income coupled with expanded facilities for training all categories of medical personnel. A less far-reaching Administration plan is also under consideration and Fine predicted that the issue of health care for all "will peak around late 1972 and will revolve around the Administration package and our own bill."

Lower economic groups

Dr. Eugene Sibery of Chicago, executive vice-president of the National Blue Cross Association, forecast even higher health cost figures -- up to a range of \$156-189 billion by 1980.

The two men stated that neither estimate provides for any health-care spending for an estimated 30 million Americans -- most of them in the lowest economic brackets -- who have no health service available to them. A major problem in a national health insurance system, they said, will be how to provide the

added personnel and facilities to furnish services for this additional 15 per cent of the population.

Health Insurance Assn. presents care proposal

The Health Insurance Association of America has presented the latest proposal for a national health insurance program. HIAA is an organization representing some 308 insurance companies in the nation.

The HIAA proposal called Healthcare would cost the taxpayers an additional \$3.2 billion the first year. The plan would utilize federal grants, loans and loan guarantees to increase health manpower and to bring health personnel into ghettos and rural areas, to develop ambulatory care services to reduce hospitalization and to encourage reorganization of hospital outpatient departments, prepaid group practices and other health care delivery methods.

The proposal calls for setting up priorities on "community needs." Under the HIAA proposal dental care would eventually be included with services for children given the highest priority.



The ADA Judicial Council held a two-day meeting at ADA Headquarters last week. Shown from left are: Mrs. Helen Reynolds, administrative assistant; Harvey Sarnar, secretary; Dr. Rollie A. Bennett of Anderson, Ind., vice-chairman; Dr. Frank E. Nicklaus of Bath, N.Y., chairman; Dr. James F. Hughey of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Dr. Elbert H. Smith of Fresno, Calif. Dr. John W. Farley of Albuquerque, N.M., another Council member, was not present when this picture was taken.

The principal aim of the HIAA proposal would be a twin-program of health insurance, one private and the other subsidized by federal funds for indigent, near-indigent families and previously uninsurable persons, with insurance companies pooling risks. Both the private and the public programs would be unified by a set of standard, minimum benefits imposed and enforced by the federal government.

ADA salutes Dr. Dunn at inauguration ceremony

Dr. John M. Deines of Seattle, has congratulated Dr. Winfield Dunn on his inauguration as governor of Tennessee on January 16.

In a telegram to Governor Dunn, Dr. Deines said: "In behalf of the American Dental Association and its 113,000 members I extend our best wishes for a successful term as governor of Tennessee. The dental profession is proud to have one of its finest practitioners serve in the highest of state offices. I assure you that

the dentists of Tennessee will cooperate with you in all programs for improving the health of the public and especially those programs for the betterment of dental health." Dr. C. Gordon Watson, ADA executive director, and Mrs. Watson represented the Association at the inauguration.

Dr. Jeanne Sinkford on research council

Dr. Jeanne C. Sinkford, a prosthodontist and an associate dean at Howard University dental school, has been appointed to the National Advisory Dental Research Council. The four-year appointment was announced by Dr. Robert Q. Marston, director of the National Institutes of Health.

As a member of the Council, Dr. Sinkford will make recommendations on the grants and awards programs of the National Institute of Dental Research.

Dr. Sinkford also is an attending staff member at the Freedmen's Hospital and a

consultant at the Veterans Administration Hospital and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington. She received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in Dentistry from Howard University in 1969 and the Alumni Achievement Award from Northwestern University in 1970.

College deficits rising

American private colleges and universities need significant aid soon to halt a trend that has plunged the average institution from the black into the red in three years, a survey by the Association of American Colleges has revealed. The study blamed rising costs, construction, maintenance and security in "a decade of growing inflation and increased demands for services."

The AAC said questionnaires distributed to 733 institutions showed the "average" private college finished 1968 with a funds surplus. One year later, it finished with a deficit, and during the next year the deficits grew five-fold.

PROPOSES EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT CHANGES

The American Association of Dental Schools has sent Elliot L. Richardson, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, a letter proposing significant changes in the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act. The present five-year Act will expire on June 30, 1971, and the AADS paper proposes revisions for the new legislation which will succeed it.

Among highlights of the AADS recommendations are:

-- The federal share of construction costs for schools should be increased from \$300 million in 1972 to \$500 million in fiscal 1976.

-- The annual maximum award per student for all health professions should be increased from \$2,500 to \$3,500 for both loans and scholarships.

-- Institutional base grants in each school year should be increased from \$25,000 per school to \$50,000 for all professions covered under the current law. Further, schools of medicine, osteopathy and dentistry, should be reimbursed \$5,000 per student on the basis of total enrollment, and no enrollment increase should be required in the institutional grant formula. Further, no institutional grants should be less than those awarded in the previous year.

-- Special project grants based on enrollment increases, innovative curriculum revision, and other factors, should be expanded and also included in a separate authorization.

-- An institution with an approved project for either construction of a new dental school with a minimum of 100 first-year students or expansion of an existing school with a minimum increase of 25 first-year students, should be

eligible for a federal grant of \$200,000 per new first-year student.

-- One-time planning grants of \$20,000 for each anticipated first-year student should be available for new dental schools.

-- An institution with an approved project for creating a new dental school should also be eligible for a grant of \$10,000 per new first-year student for the first year of operation, and \$5,000 for each additional first-year student in the next three years.

Dr. James John dies, former ADA trustee

Dr. James E. John of Roanoke, Va., who had been active in national, state and local dental affairs, died January 9 at the age of 80. Dr. John served as ADA fifth district trustee from 1947 to 1953 and as ADA second vice-president in 1959.

Dr. John also was a past president of the Roanoke Dental Society, the Piedmont District Dental Society, the Virginia State Dental Association and the ADA State Officers Conference. He was a fellow of the American College of Dentists and a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Society. He also served as secretary-treasurer of the Virginia State Dental Association.

His nephew, Dr. Byron John of Roanoke, is executive director of Virginia Dental Service Plan. Dr. John is survived by his wife.

MEDICO dental program seeking volunteers

American dentists interested in service with an overseas voluntary program, will find an excellent opportunity with MEDICO in Honduras, according

to the ADA Council on International Relations.

The program, established in late 1968, is conducted in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras, a small community in the mountains near the old Mayan ruins of Copan. There is a three-chair dental clinic in the health center, a modern building. Another dental unit is in the Occidente Hospital.

Dentists joining the program serve for a month in the clinic and the hospital. There are also opportunities for visiting lecturers in the specialty areas, and the program currently needs a full-time dental director who usually serves for a two-year period.

Information and application forms may be obtained from the Council at ADA Headquarters.

Jobless plane designers seek dental careers

About 20 unemployed aerospace engineers, believing their careers in that field are in jeopardy, have expressed interest in applying for admission to the University of Southern California dental school in Los Angeles. About six men already have made formal application.

Although some are middle-aged and about twice as old as regular students, they think they can complete the four-year course of dental education and pass the state board examinations to become practicing dentists.

"Many of these men are highly qualified academically and have the manual dexterity to become fine dentists," said Donald M. Osborne, director of admissions at the school. "Some of them have been engineers in the aerospace field for ten years, and it appears that some feel they've had it so far as that industry is concerned."

PRESIDENT SIGNS HEALTH SERVICE CORPS BILL

President Nixon has signed a new \$60 million program designed to attract physicians and dentists and other health personnel to work in ghettos and rural areas. The new measure is similar to the existing services provided to American Indians living on reservations. The new law, entitled the Emergency Health Personnel Act of 1970, will enable the U. S. Public Health Service to assign physicians, dentists, nurses and other health professionals to serve anywhere in the country at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with the consent of state professional associations and state departments of health.

Under the measure, \$10 million will be earmarked for this fiscal year, \$20 million for fiscal 1972 and \$30 million for fiscal 1973. Although the funds have been authorized, they still have not been appropriated, an action that will require additional legislation in the new Congress.

Should the first year's funds be appropriated this year it is expected that about \$2.4 million would be spent for constructing and equipping health facilities. The remainder of the \$10 million would be used to employ about 450 health professionals, half of them physicians and dentists, making about 150 health teams of from two to six members.

Sen. Warren G. Magnuson and Sen. Henry M. Jackson, both democrats from Washington state, co-sponsored the bill which was passed 66 to 0 in the Senate. Two democratic representatives, Congressman Paul G. Rogers of Florida and Congressman Harley O. Staggers of West Virginia, were the prime movers in the House, where the bill passed

by an almost unanimous voice vote. In the last four years similar bills were introduced in Congress but died without action.

Essay program readied for ADA annual session

Final selection of essayists and approval of the essay program for the 1971 annual session in Atlantic City, N.J., were among actions taken by the ADA Council on Scientific Session at its meeting January 18-20.

Essay topics will cover anesthesiology, endodontics, operative dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics and oral development, pedodontics, periodontics, practice administration, prosthodontics, public health, radiology and research.

The Council will accept applications from prospective participants in the 20-minute lecture, table clinic, scientific exhibit and motion picture programs until April 1. The 112th annual session is scheduled for Oct. 10-14. Scientific aspects of the

session will be presented in the Atlantic City Convention Center.

113,213 ADA members

Membership in the Association set a new record on Dec. 31, 1970, totaling 113,213 compared to 112,067 at the end of 1969. The breakdown in categories shows: active and life members, 97,424; affiliate members, 477; associate members, 62; honorary members, 119, and student members, 15,131.

END NOTES

Dr. Clifton O. Dummett, associate dean, professor and chairman of the department of community dentistry at the University of Southern California dental school, has been appointed to the Program Development Board of the American Public Health Association....Dr. Judson C. Hickey, dean of the dental school at the Medical College of Georgia, and Dr. Victor L. Steffel, professor emeritus at Ohio State dental school, were the only two dentists to receive awards during Ohio State University's centennial celebration.



Looking over final selections for the essay program planned for the 112th ADA annual session in Atlantic City are members of the ADA Council on Scientific Session meeting last week at ADA Headquarters. Shown from left are: Dr. Curt J. Gronner of Morrison, Ill.; Dr. John F. Chimienti of Kansas City, Mo.; Dr. Marshall W. Mueller of St. Paul, Council chairman; Dr. L. W. Bimestefer of Dundalk, Md., and Dr. Howard V. Jones of San Diego, Calif.