

Chamber Directors Approve Vote on Fluoridation; Decide to Ask Council for Election in November

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce board of directors yesterday went on record as approving a public ballot in Medford on the question of adding fluorides to the Medford water supply.

At a luncheon meeting, the board voted to ask the city council to submit the proposal to a vote of the people at the general election next November. It did so after receiving and filing with approval a report on the matter, prepared by a special committee appointed to make a study of the proposal.

Feeling of Members

The board did not express itself one way or the other with regard to the merits of fluoridation, members feeling that it could not speak with authority for its members on a subject which has been engaged in controversy. But, as a proposal affecting the welfare of the citizens of the city, it was indicated that residents should have an opportunity to vote on it.

In accepting the report, it asked that the report, which was favorable to the addition of fluorides to the water as a measure for the control of dental cavities, be studied by its members, and requested that it be published in the press.

Text of the report follows:
TO: The Board of Directors, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Your special committee appointed to conduct a study of the proposal to add controlled amounts of sodium fluoride to the water supply of Jackson county municipalities, respectfully makes the following report:

Scope Limited

The scope of our study was necessarily limited. The members are not technically qualified to present a scientific report, and were thus forced to rely on secondary, rather than primary, sources.

However, a vast amount of material on the subject is available, and much of it was scrutinized and evaluated. Sources consulted include the following:

1. Report of the Committee of the St. Louis Medical Society on Water Fluoridation, as published in the February, issue of Missouri Medicine. This report is an exhaustive, 14-page study conducted by three medical doctors, which goes into great detail as to the various aspects of the proposal.

2. Report on the Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply, made to the board of governors of the Portland City Club, by a distinguished committee of six Portland men. This is another exhaustive study and report on the proposal, thoroughly documented. Membership of the committee was Dr. Arthur Scott, head of the Department of Chemistry, Reed college; Dr. Frank B. Queen, professor of pathology, University of Oregon medical school; Dr. Guy A. Woods Sr., dentist; Mr. R. Franklin Hart, pharmacist, E. R. Squibb and son; Mr. R. F. Merry, attorney; and Mr. John C. Beatty Jr., attorney. The study was conducted over a period of two years, and the committee called a large number of competent witnesses as well as consulting with the extensive chemical, medical and dental literature devoted to the subject.

Digest of Opinion

3. Digest of Opinions on Fluoridation, compiled by the Health League of Canada. This listed universities, preventive medicine departments, public health officials and other groups and gave their opinions, and their reasons for them, as to the proposal to fluoridate municipal water supplies.

4. Fluoridation Facts, published by the Council of Dental Health of the American Dental Association, in answer to criticisms of fluoridation. This is a 21-page pamphlet of brief but thoroughly documented facts presented in opposition to claims and allegations of opponents to fluoridation.

A quantity of other materials was reviewed by your committee, but it feels reference to these four sources is sufficient for the purpose at hand. Copies of each are available to any members of the board desiring to inspect them. It is strongly urged that any member having any questions concerning the matter take the time to do so.

Six Allegations

These four sources are documents which, in summation, favor the fluoridation of water supplies. The fact remains that in each the objections put forth by those opposed to fluoridation are set forth in detail. These resolve themselves to six principal allegations, as follows:

1. Fluorides are poison, which accumulate in the bones; they may cause cancer, nephritis, heart disease, and a dozen other ailments.

2. They do no good in cutting down on dental carries.

3. They are unconstitutional, because they violate religious liberty and civil rights.

4. Substitutes are available, so that no good purpose is served by fluoridating the water.

5. It is economically wasteful, because only a small percentage of the treated water is used for drinking or cooking.

6. The key to good dental health is proper diet, and that fluoridation, even if effective, is only a stop-gap measure.

There is a measure of truth in each of these, which has given some weight to the arguments by those who have had no opportunity to look further in to the matter. They should be answered as briefly as possible, point by point.

1. Fluorides, undiluted or in fairly concentrated mixtures, are poisonous. So are most of the trace minerals found necessary to human life. But in the tiny portions in which they are assimilated by the body, they are not only non-poisonous but beneficial. So too with fluorides. A vast body of scientific literature attests to the safety of the procedure. Not one case of any disease has ever been connected with the proper fluoridation of municipal water. Suggestions to the contrary are pure speculation.

Carries Reduced

2. Extensive, long-range experiments in controlled situations, both where controlled amounts of fluorides are added to the water, and where water is naturally fluoridated in amounts far in excess of the recommended dosages, have proven conclusively that dental carries in children are decreased by percentages varying up to 70 per cent. The benefits remain through-

out life. This is no longer successfully denied by opponents.

3. The Supreme Court of Oregon recently ruled, unanimously, that fluoridation is constitutional, and does not violate religious or civil rights. The same verdict has resulted in all court cases in point but one, and it was overruled in an appeal.

4. Substitutes has not been proven effective. Even if there it stands to reason that those with the greatest need for them would be the ones least likely to take advantage of them. Dental disease, a major health problem, is also a major economic problem affecting the entire community, and is a reduction in its incidence would have a bene-

ficial effect on everyone in the long run.

Minimal Cost

5. Much of the fluorides added to water do, indeed, go to waste. But the cost is so minimal and the benefits so great, that this is a minor consideration.

6. Diet is one of the keys to dental health. Dental authorities list four measures for dental disease control, proper diet, tooth brushing, adequate dental care, and addition of fluorides to water. Each is important. Diet alone is not the answer, particularly when it is considered that a minority of the citizens have the knowledge or motivation to eat a scientifically chosen and completely beneficial diet.

In summary, we paraphrase from the finding of the Portland City Club study.

Fluoridation of water supplies as a public health measure has been probably as thoroughly investigated as any public health measure ever proposed. It has been proven to be a safe and economic way of cutting the incidence of dental caries by at least one-half. No competent evidence is available to contradict these findings. The cost is relatively low for the benefits derived. Fluoridation is not a substitute for dental care, but does achieve a substantial reduction in caries unobtainable by other means.

Respectfully submitted
Ray Johnson
George Flanagan
Eric Allen, Jr.

County Appraisers Attend SOC Course

Five men from Jackson county are among the 120 county and deputy county tax appraisers from Oregon and Washington attending a five-day appraisal short course this week at Oregon State college.

Attending from here are Thad W. Hatten, Carl W. Miller, W. B. McCulloch, John F. O'Hara and Stewart Pennington.

The course, which ends March 23, is designed to bring appraisers abreast of latest developments in property tax appraisal work. Subjects emphasize methods of appraising various types of Oregon property for tax purposes.

Oregon State college staff members and representatives of the Oregon state tax commission provide the instruction.

CANDIDATES TOO YOUNG
Des Moines, Ia. — (U.P.) — The Iowa Attorney General's office told George Pettengill, 20, Thursday that he could not run for the Iowa Legislature because he won't be 21 years old before the closing date for filing his candidacy.

URUGUAY GETS LOAN
Montevideo, Uruguay — (U.P.) — A group of American banks have negotiated a \$30,000,000 loan to Uruguay, it was announced Thursday. A delegation headed by Alfred Vinton, vice president of the First National City Bank of New York, arranged the loan.

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Revival To Open At Temple Baptist

The Rev. S. W. Hale, Albany, Ore., will speak Sunday, March 25 at services at Temple Baptist church, which will begin a series of revival services. The meetings will consist of two daily services, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and will continue until April 8.

Four special services also are slated during the revival. They will open next Sunday evening, which will be "men's night" and a mens' choir will be featured. In the evening on Easter Sunday will be a "womens' night"; Friday, April 6 will be "young people's night," and Sunday evening, April 8 will be "boys and girls' night."

The Rev. Mr. Hale has been a pastor in New Mexico and California and has been at Albany for the past several months.

CEYLON ASKS FUNDS

Colombo, Ceylon — (U.P.) — Ceylon has asked the United States for \$1,000,000 to improve the runway at Ratmalana airport, it was disclosed today. The reconstruction would be paid for out of a \$5,252,000 fund allocated by the United States for Ceylon assistance.

TO TAKE BRIDE'S NAME

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Lloyd Allen Peterson, 55, asked Superior Court to change his surname to Evans, the same as that of his bride-to-be, so she can carry on her social and business activities after they are married.

Russian Veterans To Visit America

London — (U.P.) — A group of Soviet veterans has accepted an invitation from Americans they met in Germany in 1945 to visit the United States, Moscow Radio said today.

A Moscow broadcast monitored here said the "Soviet Committee of the Elbe," an organization of veterans of the historic meeting with American troops in the heart of Hitler's Germany, will return the visit to the USSR made by their American counterparts last year.

HE SHOULD GET 'EM

Martinez, Calif. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Janice Gilkey, 20-year-old bride of one year, was granted a divorce Thursday when she complained to Judge Harold Jacoby that her husband kept the house full of pet lizards, snakes and frogs. Jacoby granted the husband, Douglas, 26, custody of the pets.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

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