

National Fluoridation News

Vol. X, No. 3

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June-July, 1964

No Fluoridation For East Bay

— AN EDITORIAL —

MAJORITY OF THE FEW

What is this "willful minority" that keeps upsetting the plans of the fluoridation lobby? And where is the "overwhelming majority" whose wishes are being frustrated by the actions of the willful minority?

Is it possible that the fluoridation lobby has somehow got its epithets crossed? Is it possible that willful minorities keep winning referendums in city after city across the nation?

The truth, of course, is that all the talk about the great public demand for fluoridation is a figment of the fluoridation lobby's desperate imagination. For the fact of the matter is that the "willful minority" actually comprises certain segments of the Public Health Service, the American Dental Association and elements of the chemical manufacturing industry. It is these groups that have invented the "great public demand" and have been loudly trying to establish its existence by repeating the Big Lie over and over again.

In case after case, in community after community, the same names keep appearing on the list of proponents of fluoridation—names all drawn from the same small clique of special interests that have reputations or profits to defend.

If there is any overwhelming majority whose wishes are being frustrated it consists of the millions of private citizens who never get a chance to express their views on fluoridation because the willful clique of lobbyists sees to it that wherever possible fluoridation is imposed by secret executive decision, and sprung on the people as a surprise.

The record of public sentiment on fluoridation is unmistakably clear: Where the people have a chance to express their views, fluoridation is ignominiously defeated; only where the people are bypassed does fluoridation gain a toehold.

All the evidence of a great public demand for fluoridation that we have noticed exists in the minds of a handful of promoters who are convinced that they—and only they—have the secret to what's good for the rest of us. And it is these promoters who yell the loudest that the people don't know what's good for them.

Such an attitude, of course, is not new; for centuries self-appointed guardians of the public weal have taken the position that the masses cannot be trusted with their own welfare; that they need paternal guidance to lead them to the path of truth and well-being.

We have been waiting for a decade now for some indication that there is a great public thirst for fluoridation; but we know of not a single instance in which fluoridation has been proposed and fought for by a truly grassroots group of citizens. In every case it has been the fight AGAINST fluoridation that has engendered popular support.

It is about time that the fluoridation promoters took a head count; they will find to their surprise that their support lies in a thin rank of shrill-voiced "experts," each of whom is grinding a private axe.

Phosphorous Additives Tested

There are already several alternatives to water fluoridation available, including fluoride tablets for individual use.

Now, indications are that an entirely different approach may be on the horizon, with the use of certain phosphorous compounds added to foods.

According to reports of experiments (Science, June, 1964; Wall Street Journal, June 12, 1964) there is evidence that adding these compounds to bread and cereals may help to inhibit tooth decay.

According to Dr. F.J. McClure of the National Institute of Dental Research "further evaluation" of these

phosphate compounds "for the control of human caries warrants serious consideration."

Researchers believe that the compounds in question may occur naturally in such cereal foods as oats and rice, some nuts and in sugar and that they may be removed during the refining process.

Dr. McClure reported specifically on feeding mice a compound called fructose 1, 6-diphosphate. Of 33 mice on a diet containing this compound, only 15 per cent developed cavities, while in a control group receiving the same diet but without the compound all the mice developed cavities.



BEN NESIN Laboratory near Ashokan Reservoir in New York State is dedicated as crowd of 150 looks on. Nesin, longtime friend and adviser to National Fluoridation News, was for many years in charge of water safety for New York City. He died in January. Widow, Mae, is second from right.

Laboratory Named For Late Ben Nesin

A water-testing laboratory named for Benjamin C. Nesin, was dedicated on May 20 in upstate New York.

Mr. Nesin, who joined the New York City Department of Water Supply in 1927 and was with it until his death on January 28, 1964, was for many years responsible for water treatment and water supply safety for the city department.

At the dedication ceremony of the Catskill facility, at Ashokan Reservoir, near Kingston, N.Y., the president of the Board of Water Supply, Arthur C. Ford, noted Mr. Nesin's status as an "internationally recognized expert on water quality."

"The City of New York may well be proud that the Israeli government sought and obtained Ben Nesin's consulting services and advice on the new water supply system being developed in that far-off land," Mr. Ford said. "To Ben Nesin goes the gratitude of the city of New York for his findings to the Mayor's Committee on Management survey in 1951 in his comparison of water quality between the Delaware River and the Hudson as a possible future source of supply."

Besides Mr. Ford, others present at the dedication included the city's Chief Engineer, Edward J. Clark; water Commissioner Armand D'Angelo, Deputy Commissioner John Feidner, and Mr. Nesin's widow, Mae. In all, 150 persons attended the ceremony and a luncheon that followed.

Mr. Nesin, during his career with the city water department, was chemist in charge of the Mount Prospect laboratory until 1945, when he was appointed director of labora-

tories. He established the present system of watershed control of pollution and contamination and conducted investigations on the toxicological problems of water supply.

A determined but soft-spoken opponent of any unnecessary tampering with water supply, Mr. Nesin once expressed his views on fluoridation this way:

"Never in the history of water supply has a substance with so much unfavorable evidence (fluoride chemicals) been considered seriously for introduction into the potable water of communities. . . . It must also be

(Continued on page 3)

17,000 Sign Petitions, Assuring Trenton Vote

Petitions bearing more than 17,000 signatures were filed in Trenton, New Jersey on May 5, thus assuring a referendum on the question of fluoridation.

Fluoridation was approved by the City Council last October, but the Citizens Anti-Fluoridation Association of Trenton refused to admit defeat, and proceeded to gather the petitions for a referendum in November, 1964.

Although New Jersey's Faulkner Act requires only 15 per cent of the voters' signatures on a petition to force a referendum, the anti-fluoridation group gathered 30 per cent of the voter registration.

In material accompanying its petitions, the association pointed out that there is already too much poison in the air and water for human

Move Rejected in Contra Costa and Alameda

"Virtually the entire medical and dental profession plus public health experts and educators mobilized" to push fluoridation, according to the accounts from California.

But their propagandist efforts failed: Voters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties rejected on June 3 a proposal to fluoridate the water supply of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which serves nearly one million residents.

It was the second rejection of fluoridation in the district in four years.

Complete results showed that in Alameda County the vote this time was 124,016 opposed, compared with 108,035 in favor. In Contra Costa County, the tally was 43,207 against and 37,447 for fluoridation.

Growing Opposition

The victory for the forces opposed to tampering with public water supplies was one of the biggest in numbers in recent months. The referendum reflects a growing opposition to fluoridation, as vote analysts have noticed. Research on voters' reasons for opposition has disclosed so far principally suspicion of the mysterious dabbling of scientists with our food and water.

In the East Bay campaign, the antifluoridationists stressed the disfiguring aspects of mottling and, in a spirited battle, argued convincingly that the safety of fluoridation was far from proved.

Inconclusive Vote

In another fluoridation battle — in the Contra Costa Water District, which covers the Concord-Pleasant Hill area — proponents of fluoridation squeaked through to a narrow victory in a highly inconclusive "advisory referendum."

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safety.

Some observers detected a left-handed attitude in the wording of the question to be voted on in the referendum.

As is so often the case in fluoridation referendums, things are made as difficult as possible for the voter, and especially those voters who are against something the administration happens to be for.

In the Trenton case, the voters who are against fluoridation will have to vote "yes" on the question, which reads:

"Shall the City Council's ordinance fluoridating the public water supply system of Trenton, by adding fluoride compounds to the water thereof be repealed?"

The petitions for the referendum (Continued on Page 2)

A good way to bring about evil is for good men and women to do nothing about it.

President James Madison

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The following editorial appeared in the Kingston, Ontario, Whig-Standard on February 22, 1964 under the heading, "Official Propaganda."

The school children of Kingston are being subjected (along with their parents) to deliberate propaganda in favour of compulsory fluoridation of community water supplies. Furthermore, this propaganda, originating from the Canadian Dental Association, is being distributed in our schools by the Dental Health Division, Kingston Health Department.

This Department has thus taken it upon itself to recommend fluoridation of water in spite of the fact that City Council has not seen fit to impose this outrageous violation of rights upon our citizens notwithstanding a close vote in favour of the measure.

The form this propaganda takes is a booklet distributed to school children, entitled "Dental Health Guide for Teachers and Parents." The public is told that children "will have good teeth — if . . ." among other things, "Fluoride is in the drinking water."

In another place the booklet mentions that natural fluoride is sometimes found in drinking water and that it is beneficial for the teeth. There is then an extended section on the artificial fluoridation of public water supplies, "an effective, inexpensive and completely safe method of preserving dental health."

In view of the recently-published view of some scientists at the National Research Council in Ottawa that the literature of fluoridation, as it stands, provides reason for doubting the absolute safety of the method, it is surprising to find those responsible for the health of our children so far forgetting their professional duty as to promulgate the inaccuracies and downright lies contained in this offensive little booklet.

The other point is the one we have always stressed and which has been well stated by Dr. Charles Gordon Heyd, former President of the American Medical Association: "I am appalled at the prospect of using (the) water (system) as a vehicle for drugs . . ."

The inclination to follow the strongest propaganda line and set aside the promptings of reason which are so typical of this age have blinded people to the simple fact that we have here a violation of basic human rights.

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Referendum Stays in Mass.

A Massachusetts law requiring a referendum in any community in which fluoridation is proposed has withstood an attempted onslaught in the state's House and Senate.

By a vote of 68 to 16 on January 28, the House killed a bill that would have let local authorities decide whether to fluoridate a community's water supply. The day before the Senate killed a similar bill.

Representative Perlie D. Chase, Republican of Boston, in opposing the bill, said the present law was adequate.

And Representative John P. Ivascyn, Democrat of Webster, said the Legislature should not deprive the people of the right to decide about fluoridation in a referendum.



"Look at all those poor, ignorant, misinformed, emotional crackpots."

17,000 Sign Trenton Petitions

(Continued from Page 1)
were submitted under the names of Thomas Lorenzo, Francis A Caputo, Mrs. Emma Lis, Mrs. Elaine R. Kuti and Roy Wayne Cripps. Mr. Cripps is executive secretary of the Citizens Anti-Fluoridation Association of Trenton.

The association's petition message pointed out that under the ordinance proposed by the City Council, all Trenton citizens, "regardless of their individual preferences or even adverse reactions" to fluorides, would become "captive water consumers, with no escape, control or stoppage possible."

The petition message went on: Fluoride is not like chlorine, which is a sanitary treatment to water to kill bacteria and thus make it potable and safe and which is mainly evaporated away.

Fluoride on the other hand, is a toxic poison, odorless and tasteless, and cannot be boiled away in the least degree. Laboratory researchers state that it accumulates in the human body and that a continued intake is highly dangerous.

By signing this Referendum Petition you are asserting your lawful constitutional right as a free American citizen, to have the opportunity to cast your ballot vote on this vital fluoridation question as you wish, in true democratic fashion.

"Because compulsory mass-fluoridation is anti-American and anti-democratic, we are anti-fluoridation. Are you? We love our basic American freedoms. Do you? Join this fight for freedom of individual choice. Sign this petition for a referendum vote by the people, of the people and for the people."

As might be expected, the typically democratic procedure of getting up a petition scared the daylight out of the profluoridation people, who spoke darkly of "scare" and "sneaky."

A letter from The Mercer County Labor Union Council, signed by William M. Gerhauser, secretary, said the anti-fluoridation petition-seekers appeared to get their best results with housewives who were at home alone.

This charge was quickly knocked down by a woman who wrote a letter to the newspaper (April 29, 1964) The Trentonian, in which she said:

"A man and his wife came to our door recently asking us if we would sign a petition, the one you refer to

in this morning's paper under the headline "Fluoridation Scare Tactics Hit by Labor."

They came in the evening, not a time likely to find the housewife home alone, which would seem to put into doubt William Gerhauser's remarks about the antis getting their "best results with housewives who are at home alone."

When the petition was formally introduced — along with the 17,000 names — in the City Council, the president of the council, Frank V. Walsh, an ardent profluoridationist, snickered facetiously: "I move they be rejected."

Another Councilman, George Pegg, said that in view of the past history of referendums, the chances that fluoridation would be rejected seemed likely. He objected to the council's proceeding with plans to go ahead with fluoridation, which had been set for May 15.

The feelings of many of the petition-signers seemed to be well expressed by another letter-writer, John W. Brady, in the Recorder of Metuchen, N.J. (May 21, 1964). Said Mr. Brady:

"It seems to me that the real question at issue is: Shall a parent have

the liberty to decide for himself whether or not his child shall take preventive medicine or shall a municipal council decide this question for him by forcing the dosage down his throat and that of his child by mixing it in the municipal water supply?"

Unfluoridated Village —and No Cavities

Dental researchers have noted with amazement reports of a study of a village on New Guinea in the South Pacific.

The village, Angoram, has 110 inhabitants, who lived in a group of grass huts on the banks of the crocodile-infested Sepik River. NOT ONE OF THE 110 VILLAGERS HAS A SINGLE CAVITY!

The diet of the villagers consists of taro roots, yams, fish, possums, crocodile, lizards and snakes.

A dental officer of the Australian New Guinea Administration, who made the study, is seeking to determine if some substance in the soil and food, such as cobalt or molybdenum, may be responsible.

There is no indication that the water supply has been fluoridated.

BOOK REVIEW

Some basic facts are presented in a new book entitled "The Grim Truth About Fluoridation" written by Robert M. Buck, a veteran Chicago newspaperman.

A readable yet well documented work which cogently argues the case against this chemical additive in its many aspects is a welcome addition to the library of fluoridation literature.

Mr. Buck deals with the origins of fluoridation, the methods of its promotion, and the motives and interests of chemical companies. Many other related topics are also covered.

The book is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Ave., N. Y. 10018. Price \$1.95.

DEAF EARS

On Nov. 5, 1963, Kenyon, Minnesota, in a referendum voted 434 to 327 to discontinue fluoridation. But, in a stand typical of profluoridation forces, the Municipal Utilities Commission has refused to comply with this mandate, and at this writing Kenyon is still being fluoridated.

The American Fluoridation Experiment

by F. B. Exner, M.D.
and
G. L. Waldbott, M.D.

Edited by James Rorty

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Referendum Rejections Show Gains Throughout The Nation

A recent series of referendums coincident with primary elections throughout the nation has produced a satisfying record of fluoridation rejections in many quarters of the United States. Following are some of them:

Haddonfield, N. J. Anti Forces Win In Decisive Tally

By a decisive vote of nearly 3 to 1, the electorate of Haddonfield, New Jersey, sent fluoridation down to smashing defeat on Feb. 4, 1964. The tally was 1,993 against, 788 for.

Victor Otto, spokesman for the antifluoridationists, declared the vote showed that "if you are dedicated and your cause is just, you can usually win."

"The other side," he said, "was working under a delusion which was not of their own making, but from outside pressure."

Those supporting fluoridation hinted that a new fight might be made in the future, when, they said, "scientific enlightenment comes."

However, Public Works Commissioner Frederick S. Fox said:

"I'm delighted that the margin was so decisive because it means there will not have to be a lot of soul-searching."

And the Mayor of Haddonfield, Albert Boyd, pronounced sagely: "My personal opinion is that, in view of the vote, our water should not be fluoridated."

Pennsylvania Areas Turn Down Fluoride

Along with write-in votes for presidential hopefuls in the primary election on April 28, voters in Clearfield Borough and Lawrence Township in Pennsylvania also had an opportunity to cast ballots on fluoridation. The result was decisive.

In Clearfield Borough, fluoridation was defeated by better than 2 to 1, with 1,175 voters casting ballots against fluoridation, and 511 voting yes.

In Lawrence Township, the result was even more one-sided. "No" votes totaled 1,162, while votes in favor of fluoridation amounted to only 441.

Red Wing, Minn., Knocks Out Proposal By 4 to 1 in Voting

An energetic and hard-hitting campaign against fluoridation proved extraordinarily successful in Red Wing, Minnesota. Despite high pressure promotion by some doctors and dentists, a proposal to fluoridate was defeated, 2,711 to 621 — a count of 4 to 1 — in balloting on April 27.

Milton Holst, a Red wing attorney and member of a Citizens Opposed to Water Fluoridation group, said a house-to-house canvass "by about 25 to 30 dedicated men and women" brought even more voter opposition than had been anticipated.

"THE MAIN objection to fluoridation is that it's a form of mass medication," Mr. Holst said. "People regard it as an invasion of their personal rights. Fluoride is available in tablet form, so why shouldn't those who want it use tablets?"

Holst emphasized that the opposition campaign was locally organized.

"We didn't get into the Communist plot idea, because we thought that was silly," he said. "We used information from eminent scientists. As you know, the safety of fluoridation is still in doubt."

Mayor Demetrius Jelatis said he

doubted that fluoridation would be proposed to voters again in the near future.

"That was a strong vote against it," he said.

Wellington, Kan., Gives Resounding Nay

The voters of Wellington, Kansas, gave a heartening demonstration of the ability of citizens to think for themselves as they sent fluoridation down to a crushing defeat on April 8.

Despite a barrage of propaganda in favor of fluoridation, the proposal was swamped by a vote of 2,118 to 673.

The local newspaper, which spearheaded the profluoridation drive, continued to be bitter to the bitter end, announcing the results of the voting with the sour observation that fluoridation was "opposed by an energetic group of local health faddists and a number of anonymous citizens."

It must have come as a surprise to the majority of voters to learn that they had been taken in by such disreputable types as "anonymous" citizens, who had to pay to get their point of view printed in the paper, while the profluoridationists got plenty of free space.

West Palm Beach Opponents Win Battle

Last fall, the City Commission of West Palm Beach, Florida, voted 3-2 in favor of fluoridation. But citizens opposed to fluoridation and to the use of governmental fiat to tamper with the water supply circulated a petition and gathered 5,000 signatures, forcing the issue to a referendum.

On March 31, the referendum was taken. The result: 5,746 against fluoridation, 4,836 for it. Not only that, but 11 out of the city's 17 precincts turned it down.

The battle over the issue had been especially hard-fought, over radio and television, in news releases and in personal appeals.

Jacob Solomon, leader of the opposition, said after the referendum that the vote against fluoridation would have been even greater except for the fact that the question was buried in a corner of the voting machine, where many voters missed seeing it. Nevertheless, he expressed gratification over the results.

As for the possibility that the issue would again be brought up in an effort to force it on citizens who didn't want it, the leader of the Dental Society's fluoridation program said, "In the future I think the dentists and physicians will have little enthusiasm to promote it."

Downington, Pa., Gets Reprieve in Council

In November, 1963, Downington, Pennsylvania, became the first community in Chester County to authorize fluoridation of its water supply.

The approval came in a vote by the borough council, which split 4 to 2 in favor of fluoridation.

However, the citizens of Downington never actually got fluoridated water. The council's decision had been vetoed by the mayor, Creston I. Shoemaker, leaving it up to a new borough council to try to override the veto. On Feb. 10, 1964, the new council voted, and split evenly, 3-3, thus failing to override, which required a 5-1 vote.

Of primary importance was grassroots activity against fluoridation. One new councilman noted that one of the factors in his decision was petitions that had been gathered a-

gainst fluoridation.

Thus, the short life of fluoridation came to an end in Downington.

Santa Maria Rejects

The fluoridation issue in Santa Maria, California, was credited with helping to generate an exceptionally heavy voter turnout on April 14: 5,298 persons went to the polls, out of the 9,580 eligible, a very good showing for local elections.

While the voters were at it, they made sure they defeated a fluoridation proposal by a vote of 3,130 to 2,037. Only three of the city's 21 precincts gave fluoridation a majority.

Additional 1964 Rejections

Following is a list of communities, in addition to those whose stories appear on this page, which have rejected fluoridation in 1964.

COLORADO
Boulder 6/9/64: 5975 - 5009 (R)

DELAWARE
Middletown 3/2/64 Council Action
Fluoridation started 2/12/64.

Discontinued after three weeks.
Symno 3/21/64: 242 - 76 (R)

MAINE
Benton 3/14/64: 40 - 34
Bethel 3/2/64: 150 - 134
Fairfield 3/2/64: 411 - 251
Madison 3/2/64: 109 - 80
Mexico 2/3/64: Passed over
Oakland 3/9/64: 114 - 96 Tabled
Waldoboro 3/2/64: Indefinitely postponed

MASSACHUSETTS
Amherst 2/17/64: 1336 - 703 (R)

MICHIGAN
East Tawas 4/6/64 436 - 217 (R)

NEW JERSEY
Upper Penns Neck Township
4/5/64: 1410 - 804 (R)
Oldmans Township 4/5/64: 461 - 114 (R)

NEW YORK
Middletown 3/4/64: Common
Council Committee

PENNSYLVANIA
Brownsville 6/8/64: Unanimous
Council action
Scottdale 6/8/64: Council 8 - 4
Wheatland 4/64: 6 - 1 City Council

Laboratory Named For Late Ben Nesin

(Continued from page 1)
noted that never before has a conspicuous effort been exerted to condone adverse physiologic symptoms and manifestations attributable to a toxic substance which the proponents seek to introduce into the public water supply. . . .

Mr. Ford, in his remarks at the dedication, compared Mr. Nesin to Rachel Carson.

"From a lofty vantage they took the long view of man and his destinies," he said, "and gave close scrutiny to cause and effect brought about by his surroundings. They were concerned with what they found in that environment, and because of their gifts and knowledge, they understood.

"They breasted the tide of popular and vested opinion, and parried the slings and arrows of their critics with calm and intelligence. Their minds never strayed from the central thought. They held to their vision and kept the image of human destinies in clear focus.

"Both were entirely unselfish, each devoting, without concern for compensation, a life of dedication

Orchard City, Colo.: 364 Against, 36 For

A couple of days before the elections in Orchard City, Colorado, an editorial in the local paper noted: "We have been accused of favoritism in our presentation of the fluoridation controversy."

The paper went blandly on to admit that, indeed, "we will be the first to admit favoritism."

Well, despite the paper's favoritism, the voters of Orchard City overwhelmingly rejected on April 7 the addition of sodium fluoride to the water supply. The vote, in fact, was wildly lopsided: 346 against fluoridation, and 36 for.

East Bay

(Continued from page 1)

In this referendum—which raised serious doubts about its legality — the profluoridation forces ran up 14,470 votes, compared with 13,006 against fluoridation.

However, since the force of the vote was merely "advisory," it was considered doubtful whether the water district's directors would fluoridate, in view of the slim margin.

The background of the East Bay vote reflects the curious inconsistency in the principles of the profluoridation crowd. Having been unable, several years ago, to persuade the water district's directors to fluoridate by fiat, they succeeded in getting legislation passed calling for an election to decide on fluoridation. But in the next legislative session they boasted of killing another measure requiring votes in any California community facing fluoridation.

Prior to the June 3 referendum, Contra Costa County won a court decision permitting the county to propagandize in favor of fluoridation right up to and including election day.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Webster 4/21/64: 391 - 333 (R)
WASHINGTON
Aberdeen 3/10/64: 2309 - 1674 (R)
WISCONSIN
Bloomer 4/7/64: 664 - 345 (R) Discontinued
Medford 4/7/64 976 - 447 (R)
Wisconsin Dells 4/7/64: 449 - 434

Test in Detroit Is Due Next Year

The ups and downs and turnabouts in Detroit's long fluoridation battle faces a decisive test in November, 1965.

Detroit Corporation Counsel Robert Reese confirmed the views of city election officials that state law prevents a vote on an initiatory charter change at either the Sept. 1 primary or the November general election this year.

In the first week of June, antifluoridation groups filed petitions with 49,000 signatures calling for a charter amendment to block the addition of fluorides to Detroit's water system.

Health Board Beats Retreat

Back in 1958, the voters of Columbus, Ohio, walloped fluoridation by 2 to 1 negative vote. Two years before that, the city council rejected fluoridation.

But in May, 1964, the Columbus Board of Health decided to declare: "The voters be damned!" and tried to ram through an "order" for fluoridation that would have bypassed the council and the voters, as the board in Akron had done, to that city's disgrace.

However, no sooner had the health board's scheme become known than an outraged storm of protest forced the board to retreat hastily.

The board, apparently convinced that only it knows what's best for everyone, was nevertheless confronted with this lineup:

City Council President William R. Fornof said he would oppose any move "to foist something on the public they don't want."

Mayor Sensenbrenner, a non-voting board member, insisted such an issue be decided "only by the people."

City Atty. John Young ruled that, unlike the Akron Board of Health, the Columbus board did not have the authority to enact legislation necessary to carry out such an order.

AKRON COMMISSION IS SUED

A suit has been filed in Akron, Ohio, contending that the city's Health Commission exceeded its authority when it ordered the city's water supply fluoridated. The suit, filed on February 20, sought to hold up action on the commission's Feb. 10 order. Judge L. A. Lombardi immediately ruled that fluorides could not be added to the water until the suit is settled.

FALCONER, GETS PETITION

An effort is under way in Falconer in upstate New York to get fluoridation put on the ballot, in an attempt to reverse a fluoridation decision by the City Council. Petitions bearing more than 18,000 signatures have been gathered, and the next step in the process is awaited.

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New York 8, N. Y.

Notice to AMA & PHS: Watch That Left Hand!

As is so often the case in large organizations, the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. Thus, while organized dentistry and medicine continue to push the pro-fluoridation propaganda, one of their very own journals declares in an editorial that "IT IS UNNECESSARY AND UNWISE TO WASTEFULLY ADD IT (FLUORINE) TO COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES."

This view is contained in an editorial written by W.C. Black, M.D., of San Diego, Calif., in the August, 1963, issue of the American Journal of Children's Diseases, published monthly by the American Medical Association.

The editorial declares:

"Dental caries, the most common "chronic disease" of American children, is primarily caused by improper diet. Heredity plays a secondary role. The dietary fault has been shown to be refined carbohydrate. Although it is unlikely that the pediatrician's admonitions will correct the fault and change our national food habits still it is clearly his responsibility to make sure that his patient's parents know that refined carbohydrate is the cause of nearly all caries and to encourage a proper physiologic diet.

"Of the various ways to administer prophylactic fluorine the method of regular exact dosage is obviously best. Fluoride ion can be added (without expense) to vitamins, to canned milk or formulas for infant and child consumption, or to any other item of diet taken regularly in the same amount daily. If this prophylaxis is to be employed during pregnancy it can be added (without expense) to prenatal capsules, cow's milk, calcium tablets or any other item of diet regularly consumed in fixed amount by the pregnant woman.

"Now that the proper dose of fluorine for dental caries prophylaxis has been determined it is unnecessary and unwise to wastefully add it to community water supplies for the following cogent reasons:

"1. Dosage is highly variable and inaccurate.

"2. Older children and adults need not and should not be dosed with the drug.

"3. Fluoridated water is of no benefit to plants and may be undesirable for edible plants when such plants are ingested by animals, birds, or humans.

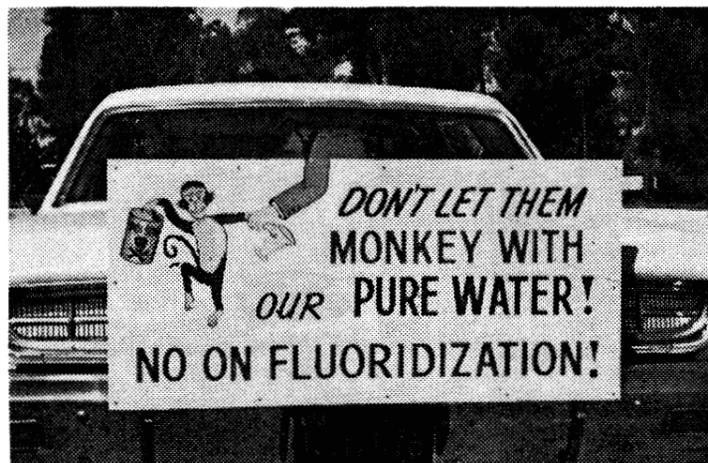
"4. Fluorine is a potent poison."

"Water and Its Impurities"

Similarly, the United States Public Health Service has been the chief promoter of fluoridation, yet a member of the PHS Advisory Committee for the 1962 Revision of Drinking Water Standards declares in a book published last year that fluoridation is "unnecessary and violates the rights of the consumers."

Following is the pertinent excerpt from the book, "Water and its Impurities," by Thomas R. Camp, chairman of the American Sanitary Engineering Intersociety Board, Inc. from 1956 to 1962:

"In establishing the limits for toxic substances in the 1962 Drinking Water Standards, the Advisory Committee used a safety factor of roughly 100, except for fluorides. In the case of fluorides, the thresholds for mottled enamel overlap the recommended concentrations for artificial fluoridation. No account has been taken of other sources of fluoride ingestion, differences in the amount of water taken by different individuals, differences in the susceptibility to fluoride poisoning, or



Picture post card in color is one of more entertaining wrinkles devised to help the battle against fluoridation. Back of card has printed message on left side warning against dangers of fluoridation and "racket" aspects of this aluminum-waste material. Cards are put out by J. A. Campbell of 645 E. Wardlow Road, Long Beach 7, Calif., at \$3 a hundred.

Dayton Residents Facing Fluoride

One of the wildest and wooliest battles over fluoridation in recent years has been keeping Dayton, Ohio, in a turmoil.

In the most recent development, the city Commission on June 3 formally approved an ordinance for fluoridating the city's water supply. This followed months of discussion in the government, the newspapers and in private.

But the indications are that plenty of fighting is still ahead. On May 21, the day after the commission had voted the preliminary step of preparing the ordinance on fluoridation, Elmer W. Mink, president of the Council Opposing Fluoridation, declared: "Our organization is prepared to take whatever steps necessary" to fight fluoridation.

The commission, he went on, could place the issue on the ballot on its own authority. It was said, however, that under Dayton's charter there is no provision for a referendum on ordinances, except through a petition. For a petition to be effective in initiating a referendum, the signatures of 25 per cent of the city's voters are required.

There is another course open — one which at this writing had not been started: antifluoridationists could submit their own ordinance measure for repeal, which would require signatures of 10 per cent of the voters.

The June 3 action by the commission came nine years after the issue first was presented officially before the city commission. But in the months immediately preceding the vote, the battle took on new vigor, as antifluoridationists stepped up their attempts to forestall tampering with the water supply.

Where the renewed interest in fluoridation started is somewhat of a mystery, but signs point to a Dayton newspaper as the instigator.

On Feb. 10, two items on fluoridation appeared in the Dayton Journal Herald. One was a column by Hugh McDiarmid in which the columnist reported the following:

of the fact that the entire population must drink water fluoridated for the benefit of relatively few persons (children 6 to 12 years old). Like the addition of iodides, artificial fluoridation of a drinking water supply constitutes mass medication for control of a noncontagious disease. This use of the water supply is unnecessary and violates the rights of the consumers.

• A new city commissioner, Dr. Roscoe L. Snyder, a dentist, remarked in answer to a question that he approved of fluoridation but that in his opinion the time was not ripe for legislation.

Commissioners Dave Hall and Robert Schell said they didn't know anything about fluoridation.

• Mayor Frank R. Somers refused to express an opinion.

From this totally negative outpouring of sentiment for fluoridation legislation burgeoned the June action.

On the same day as the column appeared, a Journal Herald editorial chided the commission for having sidestepped the question for almost a decade, and took Dr. Snyder to task for not wanting to act then and there.

The profluoridation horse-and-buggy was galloping off, whipped into a frenzy by the editorials of the Dayton newspaper.

So far as can be determined, there was no groundswell of popular demand for fluoridation, no cry for fluoridation — nothing, except a columnist's need to fill some space and a newspaper's willingness to invent an issue to stir up circulation.

Very conveniently, the Journal Herald also conducted a poll and — surprisingly — reported that two-thirds of those polled favored fluoridation — a finding hard to countenance in the face of repeated rejections of fluoridation referendums throughout the nation.

An outpouring of angry antifluoridation letters forced the newspaper to print a number of them, but with the paper terrorizing the commissioners in frequent editorials, the letters fell on deaf ears, and fluoridation was voted in.

The story of Dayton should serve as a warning to those who regard pure water as every citizen's right. The profluoridationist is ruthless and zealous in his promotion; he must be fought before he can get a foothold.

"Those who desire to protect their children's teeth from decay with fluorides may do so with fluoride tablets or with topical applications of fluoride compounds to the teeth. Recent studies indicate the possibility of many other means of controlling caries without the dangers inherent in the use of fluorides." (Page 97; Published by Reinhold, New York).

SPEAKING OUT

BY BARNET WINTER, DDS
Beacon, New York

In 1955, I had the occasion to play golf with a colleague of mine who practiced in Newburgh, which is directly across the river from Beacon. Since Newburgh was celebrating 10 years of fluoridation, I thought I would kid my colleague as I had done many times in the past. In a very serious manner I said: "Mike, I guess you're not doing too much children's dentistry anymore."

"What do you mean?", he replied. "I'm just as busy as ever!"

"Gee, Mike, that's odd," I said, somewhat puzzled, "It was a natural conclusion after reading all these glowing reports of up to 65 per cent reduction in tooth decay."

He replied, jokingly, "After all, Barney, we can't control what people eat!"

This can be illustrated by a true-life story reported in the September 15, 1963, issue of Dental Times—"The Newspaper for the Dental Profession." The story had the headline "Dental Health Declines as Civilization Gains." This is the story of the people of Tristan da Cunha, once legendary for their dental fitness. Here are the facts:

Tristan da Cunha is an isolated island in the South Atlantic. In 1937, there were 188 men, women and children. They were subjected to a thorough dental examination in which 2,000 X-rays were taken. Tooth decay was absent and there was very little disease of the gums. Mottling was present in 83 of the islanders. Investigation showed the mottling was caused by consumption of fluorides from food—no fluoride was present in water. If this island had fluoridation, this would have increased mottling tremendously, and simultaneously the toxic effects to the entire human body.



Barnet Winter, DDS

During World War II, the British Navy used the island as a base. This introduced to the island the so-called "benefits" of modern civilization, i.e., modern farming, a canning industry and the typical diet one might find in our sophisticated society.

In 1952 (15 years later), a dental examination revealed a dramatic increase in decay, particularly among children. In the most recent dental examination done by the British in 1962 (25 years later), the islanders, ranging in age from 1 to 41, were found to have grossly carious teeth, severe gum disease and excessive mottling of the enamel.

Since the mottling was still present, it proved the islanders were still ingesting fluorides from their food. However, the appearance of gross decay—50 per cent caries of six-year molars in 64 individuals from age 6 to 20 (in 1937 the original survey showed no caries in six-year molars up to age 20)—proves that the so-called benefits of fluoridation are nullified by "the modern diet." In other words, fluoridation of drinking water combined with a modern diet does not reduce tooth decay, but merely postpones it.

The late K. K. Paluev, an electrical engineer (he held 22 patents and was responsible for more than 100 inventions) indicated this in his paper presented at the 1956 public hearings in New York City. His analysis of the Newburgh-Kingston study showed a delay of two years in onset of decay—not a reduction.

The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in their report of December, 1957, agreed that there was merely a postponement of decay. They quoted a report of Dr. R. Weaver in the British Dental Journal, May, 1948.

Another point of interest is the progressive increase in gum disease which accompanied the introduction of a "sophisticated diet" on the island. The proponents of fluoridation have ignored this fact. Yet it is well known that more teeth are lost from pyorrhea than from tooth decay. The late Dr. H. K. Box, internationally known periodontist and member of the dental faculty of the University of Toronto, warned in 1953 that fluoridation might increase the appearance of gingivitis and pyorrhea.

C. C. Bass, M.D., of the Tulane University School of Medicine, also sounded this warning in an article printed in the Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society, June, 1957. His conclusions were based on a 15-year study of more than a thousand people consisting of university personnel and medical students.

The proponents of fluoridation will say that artificial fluoridation is effective because 1 ppm of fluoride is definitely placed in the water, whereas one has no control over the amount of dietary fluorides consumed. The same is true of fluoridation. The fluoride dosage obtained from drinking water cannot be controlled either. It is totally dependent on the water consumption habits of the individual, and these vary greatly.

One other point: Tooth decay is not a contagious disease. It does not cause death. Therefore, a method of administering fluorides should be offered to the public which would enable the individual to accept or refuse it. Let us remember that in our society, the individual still has the right to accept or refuse the treatment recommended by a physician or dentist, provided we are dealing with a disease which will not endanger the life of another person, i.e., tooth decay. The individual is the final authority, not "competent medical or dental authorities," or even a City Council.