DENTISTS IN GOVERNMENT

BY HARRY CIMRING, D.D.S.

There are currently no dentists in the U. S. Congress, following the recent death of Representative George S. Long, Democrat of Louisiana. A graduate of the New Orleans Dental College (1903), he practiced dentistry in Oklahoma and Louisiana until 1953, when he was elected to Congress. Also an attorney, he was the brother of Huey (former governor) and Earl (present governor) and the uncle of U. S. Senator Russell Long, all of Louisiana.

The last dentist to serve in the Senate was Lester C. Hunt, Democrat of Wyoming, who died in 1954. A graduate of St. Louis University (1917), he practiced dentistry in Wyoming until he entered politics in 1932, when he was elected to the Wyoming legislature. He served as secretary of state from 1934 to 1942 and was governor from 1942 to 1948. He was then elected to the U. S. Senate, where he specialized in legislation on health matters and dental problems. Doctor Hunt served in the dental corps in World War I. He was a member of the Wyoming board of dental examiners, and was president of the state dental society in 1926.

Another dentist in the Senate was Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota, the first and only Farmer-Laborite in that body. He graduated from Northwestern University School of Dentistry in 1903. He practiced both in Glenwood and Minneapolis until 1920. He was mayor of Glenwood, a member of the state house of representatives, and a school teacher before going to Washington and serving there from 1922 to 1940.

Doctors Roy O. Woodruff, Joseph S. Wolff, and Frank Crowther also served in the House of Representatives. Woodruff, Republican of Michigan, a graduate of the College of Medicine in Detroit (1932), was mayor of Bay City before serving sixteen sessions in Congress.

Wolff, Democrat of Missouri, a graduate of Washington University School of Dentistry in St. Louis (1905), as well as a practicing attorney, served as mayor of Festus and as a member of the state legislature before going to Congress for one session.

Crowther, Republican of New York, was born in England and attended a school of design before studying dentistry at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (1898). He practiced dentistry and politics in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York before serving in Congress for twelve sessions. He retired to Pueblo, Colorado.