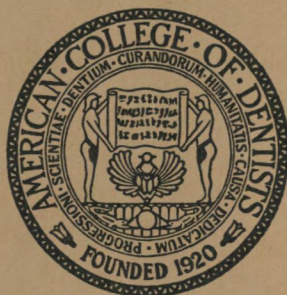


# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS



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# Responsibilities in Health Service

ARTHUR S. FLEMMING

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

It is certainly a great privilege for me to have the opportunity of participating in this Convocation of the American College of Dentists on the occasion of the centennial celebration of the American Dental Association.

When I first received your program I was delighted to note that it was contemplated that former President Hoover would also participate in this program, speaking to us on "Responsibilities in Citizenship." It was my privilege to serve as a member of both of the Hoover Commissions. As a result, I know from firsthand observation that there is no living American who is better qualified to talk on the responsibilities in citizenship. His words carry with them always the conviction that grows out of the fact that without thought of self he has practiced what he has preached. No man in our history has traveled the second mile as often as he has traveled it in order to serve his fellow human beings.

Just after I resigned as Director of Defense Mobilization back in 1956 and returned to the presidency of Ohio Wesleyan University, I was asked by Dr. Adams, the president of the American Council on Education, to serve as chairman of a dental survey commission, the organization of which was inspired by those who are leaders of the American Dental Association. Frankly, I did not understand why the invitation was extended to me. In response to a direct question, Dr. Adams said to me that they were looking for a layman who was not identified with the issues that confront the profession at the present time. I assured him that he could not possibly find a layman who was more a lay stranger to those issues than myself and on that basis I would recognize that I qualified for the vote.

I was honored by the invitation, I accepted, and just as the Commission was organized I was invited by President Eisenhower to come back to Washington to assume my present duty. Consequently, it was necessary for me to resign as chairman of the Commission on

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Presented at the 1959 Convocation, September 13, New York City.