

A Statement On **FLUORIDATION**

Sponsored by

Medical-Dental Committee on the
Evaluation of Fluoridation

More than 2000 Physicians, Dentists, Scientists

We, the undersigned, are opposed to the fluoridation of public water supplies. As members of the medical, dental, and related public health professions, we are as concerned as anyone over the prevalence of tooth decay and as anxious that it be prevented; but each of us, for some or all of the reasons set forth here and discussed more fully in the appended memorandum believes that fluoridation of public water supplies is not a proper means of attempting such prevention.

1. Positive proofs of the safety of fluoridation are required. None has been offered.
2. The so-called therapeutic concentration of fluoride, arbitrarily established at 1 ppm., in drinking water, is in the toxic range.
3. Dental fluorosis, the first obvious symptom of chronic fluoride toxicity in children is an inevitable result of fluoridation. The evidence reveals that large numbers of the population may be afflicted, and with varying degrees of damage.
4. The determination of whether damage resulting from dental fluorosis is "objectionable" is a matter for the person whose teeth are affected, and not for the arbitrary assertion of public officials.
5. The conceivable role of fluoride as an insidious factor in chronic disease has been evaded by the proponents. A substantial amount of evidence indicates such a possibility. Properly planned long term studies are required to determine the possible comprehensive association of fluoride with chronic disease.
6. Fluoridation imposes an extraordinary risk on certain individuals who by reasons of occupation, environmental circumstances, state of health, dietary habits, etc., are already exposed to a relatively high intake of fluoride.
7. Fluoridation is compulsory mass medication without precedent. Mass therapy cannot ignore the possibility of "mass" side reactions.
8. The function of a public water supply is to provide pure, safe water for everybody, not to serve as a vehicle for drugs.
9. The role and efficiency of fluoride in dental caries reduction is a matter of active controversy; whatever the outcome, there are less hazardous and more efficient ways of obtaining such benefits as fluoride may offer than by putting into the public water supply.

Dr. Jonathan Forman, Chairman, Columbus, Ohio

The above statement was publicly issued on February 20, 1957, at the New York City Fluoridation hearings. It is now sponsored by more than 2,000 physicians, dentists, and scientists; including Dr. Charles Gordon Heyd, former-President of the American Medical Association who stated: "I am appalled at the prospect of using water as a vehicle for drugs. Fluoride is a corrosive poison that will produce serious effects on a long range basis. Any attempt to use water in this way is deplorable."

Others among its members are a Nobel Prize Winner, a Chief-of-Staff of one of the Metropolitan N. Y. Hospitals, several past presidents of local Medical Societies, several members of local Health Boards, one of the greatest living surgeons, and a Dean Emeritus of a leading Medical School.

VOTE "NO" ON FLUORIDATION

L. S. Stevens, Ch. Ohio Pure Water Association, 72 N. Main St., Akron 8, Ohio

14