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31 East 27th Street,
New York, Sept. 17, 1936

The Surgeon General,
U.S. Public Health Service,
Washington, D.C.

My dear General Parran:

Thanks ever so much for your letter of September 14th and the lengthy statement you were kind enough to write for me on methanol.

I am a little bewildered by your assurances that you "have looked into this matter at some length....and I have written it with a view to making the facts clear to readers of your newspaper...." I am afraid my readers may find it difficult to understand for the statement you wrote for me is, word for word, taken from the preliminary report on methanol prepared by Dr. R.R. Sayres and W.P. Yant and submitted for approval to the Du Pont Amonia Co., the Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corporation and the Commercial Solvents Corporation in 1930. This is the very statement that the Du Pont firm edited so carefully, requesting that certain portions be deleted and suggesting that certain phrases be substituted for some of those in the original draft submitted to them. The suggested phrases by the Du Ponts were incorporated verbatim and are included in the statement you sent me.

I feel confident, after my talk with you in Washington, that you can straighten me and my readers out on this rather "strange coincidence" as The New Yorker would call it.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Spurr

RRB

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