

May 7, 1940

Mr. R. C. Murphy
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation -
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Mr. Lewis passed on to me your memorandum of February 19th to which you attached a report from Mr. Baldwin concerning the efforts of Mr. Boulton Earnshaw of the University of Pennsylvania to obtain tetraethyl lead for some experimental work. I seem to have some faint recollection of hearing about this matter before and, accordingly, what I say about it may be a repetition, but if so, will probably do no harm. It is my feeling that cases of this sort should be referred either directly to Dr. Edgar or to me for consideration before any investigation is made. In the case of persons who are bona fide and competent experimental workers, an investigation on the part of any of our safety engineers is likely to give the impression of a certain pomposity on our part, as well as an unwillingness to let tetraethyl lead be subjected to further investigation. It would usually be better, I believe, for Dr. Edgar or myself to enter into correspondence and to find out what was the purpose of the investigation, and to cite, if possible, experimental work already done which might answer the questions which were being investigated.

Regardless of the above comments, I am writing to Dr. Bronk to find out what his ideas are and to make some suggestions to him which I think will result in his employing something other than tetraethyl lead for his purpose. Actually I think it is not the thing which he should use for purely experimental reasons, but we shall see.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

cc Mr. Lewis