

February 6, 1961

Mr. Roger C. Furst
Ritter, Boessel & Holden
240 Huron Street
Toledo 4, Ohio

Re: [REDACTED]
Industrial Commission
#O. D. 7104 - 22

Dear Mr. Furst:

The statement in your letter of February 1st, 1961, of your understanding of what I said with reference to further analytical determinations of the lead content of Mr. [REDACTED] blood at this time, is entirely correct. No such determination at this time could possibly have any meaning, in relation to any exposure to lead which Mr. [REDACTED] may have incurred at Willys Motors, Inc., or elsewhere prior to May 1, 1954. The same statement applies to the results of any analysis (or analyses) of Mr. [REDACTED] urine for its lead content in 1959. The reason for this state of affairs is as follows:-

Following the termination of an abnormal or occupational exposure to lead, the exposed individual tends to excrete lead from his body at an elevated rate for some time. This period of elevated loss of lead from the body varies from several weeks to some months up to eighteen months. By this time, it has dropped to a point within the normal range, but it may continue for some time, thereafter, in the upper normal range. This phenomenon has been studied carefully and in our experience eighteen months is about the longest time over which abnormal quantities of lead may be found in the urine.

The same is true of the blood in which the concentration of lead decreases at first fairly rapidly and then more slowly until it reaches the normal range, remaining for some time in the upper normal range, that is between 0.04 and 0.05 mg. per 100 grams of whole blood.

Only if exposure to lead is resumed, whether in industry or elsewhere, do the concentrations of lead in the urine or blood return to elevated levels. In other words, the lead absorbed during abnormal exposure is lost from the body, after the exposure has been terminated, and after eighteen or more months one cannot find abnormal quantities in the body.

This answers your question, I believe.

Very truly yours,

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