

November 8, 1933

Mr. H. L. Miner
Service Department
E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co.,
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Miner:

The two questions which you raised in your letter of November 6th concerning the use of gasolines containing tetraethyl lead and regulations for their use have given me some pause.

In the matter of the use of such gasolines in ordinary asphalt paint, I can see no possible danger to persons who mix or handle the compound. On the other hand it occurs to me that such paints are sometimes used in tubs, kegs and barrels which may contain articles of food and drink. Obviously no lead compound should be used in paints used for these purposes. (I may be wrong in believing that such paints are used under these conditions. If so you can probably put me right.) I can see no other objection to the use of gasoline containing small amounts of tetraethyl lead as a thinner, although, of course, there is no reason why ordinary gasoline could not be used for this purpose. Personally I can see no excuse for a distributing company supplying lead-containing gasoline for other purposes than that of a motor fuel. On the other hand I have perhaps not made myself entirely clear. What I meant definitely to say was that I can not conceive of there being any occupational or public health danger in the use of lead-containing gasolines for any and all purposes for which gasolines are used. In my opinion there is no advantage, and there are definite disadvantages in the use of lead-containing gasolines for a variety of purposes, but so far as I can see, there is no danger of lead poisoning involved in the use of such gasolines in stoves, lamps, blow torches etc. I should consider it a matter of wisdom, commercially, to supply ordinary gasolines for these purposes. On the other hand I do not see how the matter could be taken care of by the issuance of regulations. I should be very much interested in any suggestions which you have to offer as to the character of such regulations, and as to their manner of promulgation, for I am quite

agreeable to doing anything which is reasonable and which can be expected to accomplish the desired end. However, I repeat I can not honestly take the position of believing that there is no danger, for all the evidences of experience and experiment indicate the contrary.

I shall be in Wilmington some time within the next ten days or two weeks and if you consider it worth while to discuss these matters further, I shall be glad to put myself at your disposal.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

RAK:TS

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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