

Leavenworth Fruit & Cold Storage Co.

LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

February 15, 1938

Phone 2583

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you for the mailing of the two pamphlets to me, which I have read with a great deal of pleasure and interest.

As a layman I approach this problem as it effects us in the growing and marketing of our apple crop. The growers have gone to great expense and exercise great care and even ingenuity to meet the tolerances imposed by the Pure Food & Drug Department. Due to the very severe washing now used to meet these tolerances, the apples are often severely damaged and the apple industry is suffering a severe economic loss. I note in your pamphlets some very significant items, namely:

1. "Evidence was obtained that the injection of these normal amounts of lead does not result in steady accumulation of lead in the body!"
2. "That the bulk of normal lead-----is passed through the alimentary tract ~~and~~ unabsorbed."
3. "The mean daily lead intake was--slightly less than the lead output in the feces."

I would therefore interpret your findings as indicating that the present tolerances on lead (.018 gr. per lb.) might be unnecessarily low. If a tolerance of .025 could be set without endangering the public health, the resulting less stringent washing methods would save the apple industry an immense amount of money.

Might I also ask whether you have any research that the pectin or some other quality of the apple has the ability to absorb the lead or neutralize it?

Thanking you for your kindness and courtesy.

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