

cc: Dr. F. Princi

ETHYL CORPORATION

100 PARK AVENUE BUILDING AT 41st STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

May 18, 1961

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Cincinnati

Dear Bob:

This acknowledges with my thanks your report on your trip to Italy. I have made some appropriate excerpts and furnished them to Messrs. Murdock and Boudreau for their use in any discussions with the Socony people. For your information, enclosed is a copy of the excerpts.

Sincerely yours,


W. R. Perdue, Jr.

WRP/d
Enc.

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Excerpt from Report of Dr. R. A. Kehoe of May 8, 1961:

Report of a Trip to Italy in Connection with Recent Difficulties
Associated with the Introduction and Use of Tetramethyllead
by Mobil Oil, Italiana.

Having had the way cleared for a hasty departure, through the efforts of executives of Ethyl Corporation (emergency renewal of passport, etc) and of Socony-Mobile Company (air transportation), my flight departed from Idlewild on Saturday evening and arrived in Rome at about 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, April 9. I was met at the airport by Mr. G. B. Cippolina, Manager, Technical Services Department of Mobil Oil, Italiana s.p.a., Mr. G. Prudente, of the same company, and one of Mr. Cippolina's assistants. A press photographer was also on hand, who, somewhat to my concern as to what he might do and say about them, took numerous photographs of me and two photographs of the group. As it happened, the only one of these photographs which appeared in the press, so far as I know, was in the English newspaper, Daily American, on Tuesday, April 11, accompanied by an innocuous announcement of my arrival in Rome on Sunday.

After taking me to my hotel, the Excelsior, the group, joined later by Mr. R. B. Killingsworth of Mobil, (who had just arrived in Rome) and Dr. E. Aonzo, an Esso physician from Genoa, returned to meet me at 5:00 o'clock. We dined together, had some preliminary discussion of a program of procedure, and agreed to meet next day at the office of Mobil.

On Monday, April 10, in the course of a series of talks with various persons, including finally, Mr. Cippolina, Mr. Killingsworth, an estate gentleman in charge of public relations for Esso (whose name I never learned), and Dr. Aonzo, it was agreed that no publicity of any

kind would be authorized at that time by the oil companies, concerning my visit and its purposes, or on any other aspect of the matter, and that no further attempt could be made to reply to any of the articles that had appeared in the daily press.

An effort would be made to reach the Minister of Health in the Italian Government, his technical advisor Dr. Caciarossa, and also Dr. Pietro Battista of the Ministry of Labor (with whom, in prior years, I had had an exchange of correspondence on the control of the health hazards associated with the manufacture and blending of tetraethyllead), to persuade these gentlemen with my availability, should they so desire to come to the U. S. or to learn from me the facts with respect to the medical investigations made in the United States in connection with the use and manufacture of tetraethyllead.

In due course, this plan of action led to my meeting with Mr. Battista in his office on Tuesday morning, April 11, accompanied by

Dr. Romano, for an interview, which turned out to be fairly lengthy and
highly informative. The scope of the problems associated with the
manufacture of TEL, its blending with gasoline, and the potential
occupational hazard of refinery personnel, storage mechanics and filling
station attendants (and of others) who would handle gasoline containing
tetramethyllead. I provided him with a copy of the report of the initial
investigation in San Francisco, and with a copy of the "Interim Report"
of the investigation now nearly completed.

Dr. Bidonna was especially concerned about the manufacturing
hazards, since the responsibilities of his office relate mainly to the
conditions which affect factory workmen. He anticipated that tetramethyllead
will be manufactured in Italy, and he wished to know what special hygienic
problems might arise. And well he might be concerned, considering the

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difficulties experienced by the manufacturers of tetraethyllead in Italy. I gave him all the information I could, and acquainted him with the nature and the scope of the investigations which are being made in The Kettering Laboratory concerning the toxicology, the mode of action, and the metabolic aspects of the behavior of tetraethyllead. I also promised to give him such further information as he might obtain and to be responsive, so far as might be possible, to his further communications and inquiries.

It appeared that the Minister of Health and his principal medical advisor, Professor Lombroso, were somewhat uneasy as to these unusual successful tests (the above). This was entirely understandable, since they might well be subjected to even more intensive criticism than that previously leveled at them, if it could be claimed that they had been influenced or guided in any manner at this time by an American physician (obviously one wearing name and glove with American oil companies). In the other hand, the Deputy to the Minister of Health, who as SP Ambrogio Livoti was to prepare the Minister's reply to the Parliament, expressed himself as wishing to see me, and as desiring such further information as I might be able to supply. An appointment was arranged for Wednesday morning, April 12th, when, in the company of Mr. Cignolini and Dr. Ronzo, I met with the Deputy and his secretary. After a general discussion, and my presentation of a copy, as well as a verbal review of each of the Reports of the investigations which had been made in California (including the one now under way, of which, through fortunate circumstances, an Interim Report had been prepared), the Deputy asked a series of questions to which I replied, the questions and answers (through the competent service of Dr. Ronzo as an interpreter).

being recorded stenographically by the Deputy's secretary.

It had been agreed that no effort should be made to bring me into any contact with the press.

Accordingly, at the conclusion of my interview with the Deputy Minister of Health, there appeared to be no further purpose in my remaining in Rome. Meanwhile, Mr. Deven of London and Dr. Enrico Vigliani of Milan, (The Italian medical consultant of the British company, whom it was Ethyl Export Corporation, a subsidiary of Ethyl Corporation, and since the organization of the associated Ethyl Company Limited, as a separate and competitive industrial organization. Dr. Vigliani is an outstanding authority in the field of industrial (petroleum and) medicine in Italy, a respected and friendly colleague, and one who would be consulted by Italian companies (Montecatini, I.R.I. and Agip) and by governmental authorities) had been summoned with, and arrangements had been made to visit Dr. Vigliani (who was at Desenzano, a spa club resort near Turin), on Thursday, and Mr. Deven and his group at 29, Portico Square in London, on Friday.

It is believed that the situation in Rome was dealt with as quietly and as satisfactorily as circumstances required, that appropriate information was put in the right hands, that the Minister of Health in the Italian Government can answer effectively (in the technical sense) any questions raised in the Italian Parliament, and that the foundation has been laid for any further communications that may be desired by the Italian Government.