INTERNATIONAL SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY

East Chicago, Indiana

ANACONDA

Pigment Division

March 23, 1945

Mr. O. E. Johnson,
Plant Manager,
East Chicago Office.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On March 15th I attended a meeting of the Lead Pigment Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee which was called by WPB. The meeting was held in room 4346, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C.

The presiding officer was Charles E. Love of the Protective Coating Section, Chemical Bureau, WPB. He was assisted by Mr. Benjamin M. Belcher, Head of the Protective Coating Section of WPB. Acting in an advisory capacity was Mr. Al Goetz of the Eagle Picher Lead Company who is a dollar-per-year man and who divided his time between Eagle Picher and WPB. There was also one other representative of WPB present.

Those present and the companies they represent are listed below:

Cooledge	-	Sherwin-Williams
Hoyt	-	Eagle-Picher
Hurless	-	International
Knight	-	Euston Lead
McCarthy	-	National Lead
McGregor	-	McGregor Lead
Sprague	-	Euston Lead
Wildner	-	National
Wilke	-	Hammond Lead

Mr. Felix Wormser, Secretary of the Lead Industries Association was endeavoring to register when I arrived. He was not permitted to register since he was not a member of the committee. The matter was taken up with Mr. Josiah G. Fart, head of the WPB Industry Advisory Committees who ruled that Mr. Wormser would not be permitted to attend the meeting.

The unnamed representative of WPB indicated that during the first quarter the overall consumption of pig lead would be 257,000 tons. It would be about the same in the second quarter. At the end of the first quarter total stocks in this country should be down to about 66,000 tons. They were endeavoring to get production to balance consumption but it was indicated that it would be necessary to go into the stock pile in March and April to the extent of about 25,000 tons. Total stocks in this country may go down to 25,000 tons by the end of April. It was requested

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National said that they would not operate five plants but would make their 30% quota. Euston will operate during the second quarter but will spread out production. They did not know whether or not they would operate in the third quarter. Fuller would operate during the second quarter. I indicated that we would operate in June in the second quarter and plan on operating in July of the third quarter, making a 60-day continuous operation.

It was then pointed out by the representatives of WPB that there was a backlog of about 12,000 tons of dry lead in the hands of producers and in process. On the present basis this would be about a six months' supply. The question was whether to save this backlog for contingencies or to permit it to be used up. Wildner of National pointed out that a certain amount would always be in process, depending upon the method of production used, unless a plant was completely shut down and cleaned out. If the plants were shut down, then the manpower situation would be aggravated as the labor would not be retained. Since National has most of the dry lead in process, it was mainly their argument and it was decided to leave the matter alone.

The next question was whether or not the stocks of dry white lead in the hands of the consumers, and which were considered to be rather extensive, should remain frozen. It was stated that the reason they were frozen in the first place was because it was thought that no more white lead would be produced during the emergency. Now that it appears that a certain amount of white lead will be permitted to be produced, some had taken the position that those having stock should be permitted to use it.

The WPB representatives strongly recommended that no agitation along this line be made. They stated that if an issue was made of it the lead committee would very likely rule that since so much dry lead was on hand with consumers that it would not be necessary to produce any more dry white lead. They were very positive about this and the representatives of all producers decided to take the recommendation of the representatives of WPB.

One representative of a producer asked whether or not the end of the German war would ease the pressure on the producers of dry white lead. The unnamed representative of WPB stated that it would not. Any pig lead not needed for the war effort would very likely be first diverted into the manufacture of batteries for civilians. Some one raised the question as to how much pig lead we were giving away on lend-lease and the answer was that it was only 250 tons for the second quarter. There were no figures available for fabricated products.

There is to be a revision of M-38 which probably will be issued prior to April 1st. The changes are not of importance as far as we are concerned. For example, there will be definitions of certain products such as frits. Also, the quotas for some concerns such as the manufacturers of glass and insecticides will be changed to some extent