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Senior Vice President

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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October 31, 1973

Dr. Donald R. Lynam
Assistant Director of Environmental
Health
Lead Industries Association, Inc.
292 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Don:

Attached are several clippings dealing with lead in the environment. First there is the story from Newsday about high levels of lead caused in a 4-year old boy by eating lead shot encased in the keel of a plastic toy boat.

The next story is one by John Stowell of AP of the Raleigh, N.C. conference. You may recall that we provided some background to Stowell before he attended this meeting. Don, do you have copies of all of the papers we presented to the Raleigh conference? If so, could you please send me copies.

Don - PRX

The other story of significance, of course, is the announcement that the Court of Appeals has ordered EPA to act on the lead and gasoline regulations within 30 days. I am having our Washington office attempt to obtain a copy of the court's ruling and have asked them to check further with EPA to see if there are further developments in the regulations.

Sincerely,



James D. Callaghan

JDC/ses

Enc.

cc: P. Robinson
J. Smith

LIA-76472

Pellets exposed in broken keel

Pellets From Toy Boat Cause Lead Poisoning

By Betti Logan and James W. Sullivan

East Meadow—The Poison Control Center at the Nassau County Medical Center has issued a lead-poisoning alert for a toy sailboat that contains lead buckshot as ballast in its keel.

Dr. Joseph Greensher, associate director of the center, said that authorities have failed to determine who manufactures the boat and that only two of the toys are known to have been given to children.

A soldier gave one to the 4-year-old son of a woman friend in Long Beach, and gave the other to another child who lived in the same building.

The woman had read that children living in old houses are subject to lead poisoning from ingesting peeling paint, so she took the 4-year-old and another of her children to the medical center for routine screening. Doctors there discovered that the boy had a dangerously high level of lead in his blood.

He was admitted to the medical center Aug. 27 and authorities began checking for lead chips from paint. Instead, they found that he had swallowed buckshot-like lead pellets. A search of the home turned up the sailboat, with its keel battered open to expose a mass of plastic that contained the pellets.

Greensher said the child had been eating the plastic material because it looked like candy. He was treated at the medical center and released a week later, after the lead in his system had dropped to a safe level.

Meanwhile, the poison center began a search for the manufacturer of the toy and for the other boy who had received one. The second boy's family had moved to California, but no one, and authorities were unable to locate him.

They also were unable to determine what firm makes the sailboat. Greensher said the center has tried unsuccessfully to find the soldier to learn where he bought the boats.

Greensher asked that anyone with information about the boats contact the Poison Control Center at 542-2323.

LIA-76473

N 811.01

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LEAD-IN-'GAS' RULES DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (UPI) —The Environmental Protection Agency said today that it would comply with a Federal Court order to reach a final decision within 30 days on regulations to limit the lead content of gasoline.

The order was issued yesterday by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in response to a suit filed last January by the National Resources Defense Council and 12 other groups.

Marlon Fitzwater, a spokesman for the Environmental Agency, declined to say whether the final regulations would be the same as those the Agency proposed last December.

Under the December proposals, Mr. Fitzwater said, there would be an annual phased reduction of lead in all grades of gasoline from Jan. 1, 1975 to Jan. 1, 1978.

Already in effect, is a regulation, also proposed in December, requiring availability of at least one grade of unleaded gasoline by July 1, 1974.

David Schoenbrod, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said, "The regulations EPA has 'proposed' are inadequate, by EPA's own admission, to protect the health of people in large cities."

*PP
victims
10/31/73*

LIA-76474

N 811.02

North Port Sunday Oct 21, 1973

Home Dust Blamed In Child Poisoning

By John Stowell

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A child is more likely to suffer crippling lead poisoning from dust inside the house than from the soil outside, according to a research report presented at an environmental health conference here.

Dr. Jaroslav Vostal of the University of Rochester, N.Y., told a conference of national and international authorities on low-level toxicity that lead-containing dust inside the home may account for the higher blood levels observed in inner city children.

Vostal told a project conducted at the University of Rochester, which involved taking samples of dust from floors, walls and window sills of urban homes, found lead levels five times higher than the dust inside low-risk suburban homes painted with new, low-lead coatings.

The dust itself may be the previously unsuspected source for the difference, he said.

Until now experts have

looked to paint chips, soil and colored newspaper comes for lead poisoning in children who are afflicted with pica, the mysterious urge to eat foreign objects.

A London researcher reported, however, that "no biological significance" could be found between the level of lead-contaminated soil and incidence of lead poisoning.

Dr. Clifford Strehlow, an American, said a study at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London suggests that "the recent concern with regard to contaminated soils is not well-founded," and that soil lead levels of as much as 10,000 parts per million "are without major significance."

Dr. Samuel Epstein of Case Western Reserve University, a frequent environmental health witness before congressional committees, challenged Strehlow's conclusion that the findings can be extrapolated to mean that street dust also can be excluded as a hazard.

LIA-76475

N 811.03