

To Dr. Kehoe

From W. Peaslee

Date July 29, 1966

On July 25, Mr. Britton's office (Pfaudler Company) called. It seems that he never received the message that you had phoned him on July 14. I informed his secretary that you would be back in the office about August 16.

Rochester, New York 14603

Dear Mr. Britton:

In my expectation of your telephone call, in return for mine, I failed to report to you, in writing, on the results of my interview with representatives of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. However, as the comments in my communication enclosing an expense account indicated, the verdict was unfavorable.

The position taken by the group of four men with whom I spoke, as set forth, for all practical purposes by the present law and the regulations, was that food materials, including beverages, processed industrially, should not have lead added to them in any quantity, and that any such additives were condemned, as adulterations, by the present law.

From the aspect of present industrial practice, the use of stainless steel in processing equipment has been found to be satisfactory in every respect, and therefore there is no present necessity for the use of other types of vessels.

I was in no position to argue the case on either point. The desirability, in principle, and in practical fact, of avoiding the contamination of food materials with lead, is incontestible. Obviously, if the degree of contamination is too small to be detected, there would be no violation of the law, (unless the administrators of the law, on the basis of indirect evidence, were to weigh against a source of contamination).

As to the virtues and vices of stainless steel as a general material for processing equipment, I have had no such experience as would enable me to dissent from the statements made to me. If

your people have relevant knowledge of these matters, it might be worth our while to get together at some time and explore the possibilities. You will know whether this is desirable, in all likelihood, and I shall await further word from you. I shall be back in my office on the 16th or 17th of August and will remain in Cincinnati for about two weeks before taking off for a European trip.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

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