

February 13, 1970

To: Dr. Ernest Foulkes

From: Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

During the year ended December 31st, 1969, two items in a systematic investigation of the behavior of lead in man, have been under way. One of these, "The Determination of a Physiologically Tolerable Concentration of Lead in the Ambient Air," (on the background of the other known features of the exposure to, and the absorption of, lead in the general or common environment of the American population), has been brought to the point of completion (or near completion). This phase of the experimental program has been carried on for several years, as a part of the general investigation of the responses of human subjects to the inhalation of very finely divided, particulate lead compounds. The results of this work are being assembled for study and for the preparation of a comprehensive report.

During the coming year, the work on the more general physiologic program will resume its course, through the extension of the experiments on "The Effects of the Dimensions of the Particles of Lead Sesquioxide in an Inhaled Aerosol upon the Absorption, Retention and Elimination of Lead."

A detailed plan for the investigation of the distribution of lead in the tissues of deceased persons in the American population, has been developed with the collaboration of Dr. Pfitzer and Dr. Gross, of the staff of the Laboratory, through the cooperation of the Office of the Coroner of Hamilton County. It is anticipated that this plan will be followed fairly intensively in 1970 under the financial sponsorship of Ethyl Corporation, the organization which sponsored the work involved in the development of the plan of investigation.

The total representation of these investigations in the budget of the Laboratory

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in 1970, is of the order of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), and more than twenty (20) members of the scientific, technical and secretarial staff of the Laboratory participate in the work.