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WINE INSTITUTE

WINE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL AND MOST HYGIENIC OF ALL BEVERAGES *Louis Pasteur*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103

April 4, 1968

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Professor Emeritus of Occupational Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Department of Environmental Health
Kettering Laboratory
Eden and Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

This is in reference to my letter of April 25, 1967 and our previous correspondence concerning the possibility of migration of lead from foil capsules into bottled wine. In my opinion such a possibility would be so remote as to be practically impossible.

In my last letter I told you that I would attempt to ascertain the composition of the so-called lead capsules in current use but that it would take some time. Indeed it has, but after lengthy correspondence I found that the capsules are tin coated on both sides and then covered with a clear acid resistant coating or lacquer similar to that used for liners in the tin can industry. Oddly enough the coating in this case is to protect the capsule and to keep it from being scuffed and unattractive to the consumer...not the protection of merchandise, though, of course, it affords a protective coating at the same time.

Very little California wine is sealed with the so-called lead capsules. Most California bottled wine is sealed with tin plate screw caps, aluminum caps (75 per cent), wood top corks, aluminum capsules, and plastic capsules. I am convinced that the foils used currently could not add to the total human consumption of lead, which I believe is your primary interest.

If you plan to be in San Francisco again this winter, I would consider it a privilege to take you to luncheon and discuss this with you further. It is always refreshing to meet someone who has a genuine interest in our industry.

Very truly yours,

WINE INSTITUTE

Hugh Cook
Hugh Cook, Director
Technical Division

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