

See Mr. Lewis' letter of May 11th, 1937.

May 19, 1937

Mr. E. W. Webb
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Webb:

Mr. Lewis has raised a question on which he has had some recent correspondence from the field, and which I think it wise, perhaps, to refer to you.

Various persons, and specifically and recently representatives of the Colonial Beacon Oil Company, have asked for a supply of leaflets for distribution to the public on request, in accordance with the original proposed regulations of the Surgeon General for public health. I had thought this issue was a dead one, and I see no particular reason why an effort should be made to circularize the public in this regard. We have now reached a point where it seems to me a discussion of the potential dangers associated with the ordinary use of leaded gasoline as a motor fuel becomes somewhat hypocritical. My own opinion, as you very well know, is that lead poisoning from contact or exposure to leaded gasoline is virtually an impossibility. Therefore I could not take any very honest part in the preparation of a leaflet for this purpose, unless it were felt that our failure to do so is in effect a violation of the present requirements of the Surgeon General's office. In this connection I should like to know whether there has been any official or informal communication with the Surgeon General's office which would indicate that they share our feeling that these leaflets are impractical and unnecessary. I have a vague recollection of some discussion of the matter some years ago when it was found that no one requested these leaflets nor was anyone apparently interested in them. I have every wish, of course, to cooperate with the desires of the Public Health Service even though their point of view may not be the same as my own. Therefore I should not wish to advise any procedure to which they might have even a tentative objection; certainly not without discussion with them. Sometime when it is convenient, I should be glad to have you express

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your point of view about this whole matter. For the present, it seems to me the better part of wisdom for you to advise Mr. Lewis on this point.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kenoe, M.D.