

Dr. J. Roels
32 Avenue des Azalees
Brussels, Belgium

KE 0013484

N17449

Dr. J. Roels
#32 Avenue des Azalees
Brussels

Dear Doctor Roels:

I had the pleasure of visiting Brussels and of talking with Dr. Stassens of the Government Health Department concerning the introduction of leaded gasoline in Belgium. It has always been my purpose that we have a capable medical advisor to advise on the mixing operations within any country. I am very much pleased to have Dr. Stassens and you be approached on this subject.

Since that time, from commercial representatives of Ethyl Corporation, who have told me that you have agreed to look after this work. I am very glad that it is possible to do so since I feel confident that this work can be carried out without any serious difficulties.

I am sending you, in cover, a bound volume of the published literature on leaded gasoline which I believe you will find of interest. It seems probable that you have availed yourself of the information which is in the hands of Dr. Stassens. In any case I think you will find it useful as a volume for reference. Along with it I am sending a memorandum for medical consultants with the idea of calling attention to the policies of the Medical Department of Ethyl Corporation. I believe there is nothing in these policies which will conflict in any way with your official duties. I send you also a few articles which I think will be of interest.

In addition to which is in the articles, I wish to call attention to one danger which will not arise for Belgium but which is worthy of anticipation. When lead compounds accumulate in tanks which have been used for mixing and storing leaded gasoline, recognition of this, we have issued orders for precautions in cleaning such tanks.

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I should appreciate
you would write me from time to time and
if any difficulties arise. It is possible
be of some assistance to you in avoiding
difficulties, and I shall be happy to do so.

In the above
my attention has been called to the fact
chemical manufacturing company by the
has been carrying on work which indicates
of manufacturing an anti-knock compound
such information as has come to me, this
a volatile lead compound, and it is pre-
patent of Ethyl Export Corporation would
a deterrent to this enterprise. However
matter does not interest me. I am much
with the fact that the manufacture of
is an extremely hazardous affair, and I
much hate to see a repetition of the disaster
occurred in this country. Wherever volatile
compounds have been manufactured, even in
small amounts, without a stringent medical
trouble has occurred from a series of cases
and there have usually been deaths. As
of this difficulty, we undertook years
study of the hazards of this work, and
finally, over a period of years, given our
attention to the development of safety
result of this has been that a means of
these lead compounds with safety has been
It has been, however, a very costly enterprise
had to work with the engineers of the
in such a way as to get the most useful
arrangements of factory, ventilation, etc.
and all such similar precautions. I am
that when these manufacturers in Belgium
produce these lead compounds in a large
repeat the errors which have been made
errors with the result that you will have
and you will have a serious hygienic problem
I should like to see this avoided not
unnecessary to repeat these incidents,
it would be an exceedingly bad thing for
interests of Ethyl Export Corporation.
is not, of course, the most important
point of view, but it does merit some

the knowledge that I have in this matter representative drawings and equipment, see serious difficulties arise in this

As an example this same question arose in Italy some attempted to forestall it by advising were undertaking the manufacture of tetraethyl lead. They failed to take seriously what I told them they believed I was merely trying to prevent them from competing with Ethyl Export by throwing all manner of obstacles in the way. Proceeding on their own they manufactured tetraethyl lead but there were several deaths, a series of provisions, similar to those I had outlined from my experience that one can expect these same difficulties unless these precautions are taken and operated on the basis of the experience already gained in this field.

I have not written Stassens on this point. I shall do so so advise me. I think, however, you must matter with him and if either you or he of obtaining more information from me, to contribute all of the information we

Very

HAN:is

Robert

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