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Dr. H. Foster Bain,
Director of U.S. Bureau of Mines,
Washington, D. C.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON D.C.

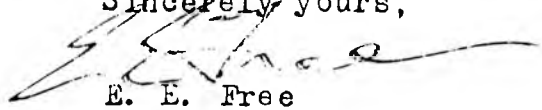
Dear Dr. Bain:

I have been somewhat concerned by the activity of the General Motors Company, and their related interests, in pushing the use of lead compounds in gasoline - the so-called "ethyl gas".

It strikes me, without knowing very much about the subject, that this is a rather dangerous procedure. Is it not possible that the lead in the gasoline will come out in the fumes in such a fashion as to produce lead dust in the air, and to raise at least a possibility of serious poisoning in places like Fifth Avenue, New York City, where the congestion of motor traffic is very great?

I think this is ^{the} kind of thing that the Scientific American ought to watch out for, and do something about in case the danger is really serious. I hear indirectly from the General Motors Company that the Bureau of Mines has tested the matter, and that you are about to ~~run~~ ^{publish} a very favorable report. If this is so, could you write me (confidentially if you wish) just what the Bureau has done, and what your engineers have concluded? Of course, I do not want this for publication, but merely to help me to formulate my own policy in the matter.

Sincerely yours,


E. E. Free
Editor

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