

June 24, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. R. A. Kehoe (2) ✓
Mr. M. A. Taylor (3)
New York Safety (2)
Tulsa Safety (2)
Mr. R. L. Jordan

At approximately 8 P. M. on Wednesday, June 23, our Mr. R. L. Jordan called me from Miami, Florida, and reported on an indicated case of lead poisoning incurred during a tank cleaning operation. The details are as follows:

Tank Cleaners, Inc., P. O. Box 3261, Jacksonville, Florida, received a contract to clean tanks at the Cape Fear Terminal in Wilmington, North Carolina. Mr. Jordan did not have the exact details as to ownership but stated that he received information to the effect that Pure Oil Company now owns this terminal, which was originally owned by McMillan and Cameron, Pure Oil jobbers in Wilmington, North Carolina. During the past week the cleaning of these tanks proceeded under observation of our Mr. F. W. Mercer of the Eastern Region. Mr. L. E. Williams, president and principal stock holder of Tank Cleaners, Inc., also was reported to have been present. Mr. Williams placed a call from Jacksonville, Florida, to our Mr. R. L. Jordan at the Alcazar Hotel in Miami on June 23 and advised him that on Saturday, June 19, the cleaning of one of the tanks was completed, at which time our Mr. Mercer advised him that this tank was lead hazard free. Following this both Mr. Mercer and Mr. Williams left Wilmington.

On Monday, June 21, a crew apparently worked in the tank. The nature of the work done was not reported to our representative but this can be determined from Mr. Mercer. On Tuesday, June 22, a colored employee of Tank Cleaners, Inc., by the name of [REDACTED] reported he was ill and consulted a doctor in Wilmington. The name of the doctor is not known to us but can undoubtedly be obtained in Wilmington. This physician is reported to have diagnosed the case as acute appendicitis and recommended an immediate operation. [REDACTED] would not consent to the operation and insisted that he be allowed to go to his home in Jacksonville, Florida. His wishes were granted and he is reported to have left Wilmington on the train Tuesday night, June 22. On arrival in Jacksonville sometime during the morning of June 23 he is reported to have been out of his head and acting in a very irrational manner. He was taken to Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville, where he was seen by Dr. John H. Mitchell of Jacksonville, who is the doctor for Tank Cleaners, Inc. At the time Mr. Williams called Mr. Jordan in the early evening of the 23rd, the man was reported as being unconscious and still in the hospital.

Immediately upon the conclusion of Mr. Jordan's call, I talked to Dr. R. A. Kehoe at his residence in Cincinnati and gave him the above information adding that Mr. L. E. Williams phone numbers are as follows:

Home - Jacksonville 55663 W
Business - Jacksonville 30963

I also advised Dr. Kehoe that our Mr. Jordan was in room 1219 of the Alcazar Hotel and could be reached there until 5:30 A. M. on the morning of Thursday, June 24, at which time Mr. Jordan would leave for Jacksonville and could then be reached at the George Washington Hotel in that city. Dr. Kehoe advised me that he would call Dr. John Mitchell and possibly also Messrs. Jordan and Williams. I told Dr. Kehoe to feel free to call us in Tulsa if there was any possible assistance we could render and this he agreed to do.

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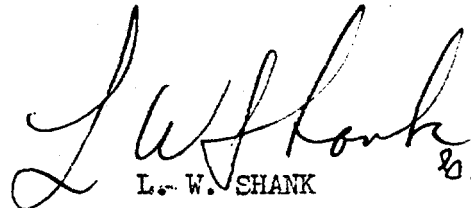
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Memorandum Contd.

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Upon completion of the call to Dr. Kehoe I called Mr. M. A. Taylor at his home in New Rochelle, New York, and gave him all the details of my conversations with Dr. Kehoe and Mr. Jordan, as outlined above. On the morning of Thursday, June 24, Mr. H. K. Ball talked to Mr. E. O. Jones, who advised him that Mr. M. A. Taylor had discussed with him (Mr. Jones) the accident. Mr. Ball promised Mr. Jones that I would submit a detailed report, which, as can be seen, is given herewith. We would appreciate being kept advised as to the outcome of this accident and, as a matter of interest, we would like to know the circumstances surrounding the accident so we may use it for the education and instruction of our own men. If we can be of any assistance we request any or all parties to call us any time during the day or night.

Mr. H. K. Ball assisted in the preparation of this memorandum so that he is familiar with all details so that if any one wishes assistance or information they can call either or both of us.


L. W. SHANK

LWS:JAT

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