

Memorandum Concerning a Telephone Conversation with Mr. Ben Penrose out of Toronto on Tuesday, May 25, 1954, at about 3:30 P.M.

This is related to the memorandum made May 18, concerning also a telephone conversation with Mr. Penrose. During this conversation, Mr. Penrose stated that 4 of the 10 men who had been working since May 5, on the Sun Oil tank, located on their tank farm out of Toronto have stated that they do not feel well, the principal symptom being "butterflies in their stomachs." These men started work on the 35,000-barrel floating-roof tank after all cleaning operations had been completed. The lead test on the air of the tank after cleaning showed a concentration of 1 microgram of lead. Most all of the work done by these men has been done on the roof of the tank and from the outside, although there have been instances where men were for short periods of time within the tank. The work consisted of paint-burning, wire-brushing, cutting and welding. This work has been proceeding for the past three weeks. Of the ten men involved in this work, only four have had any physical complaints. The men who have complained are [REDACTED] 47, [REDACTED] age 21, [REDACTED], age 31, a [REDACTED], age 30. On casual questioning by Mr. Penrose no symptoms other than the gastric disturbance could be elicited. They apparently had no insomnia, no loss of appetite, no nausea, and no colic. Six of the ten men had no complaints whatsoever.

There is certainly very little likelihood that the symptoms of these men are due to lead absorption. There is certainly a possibility, however, that they may have absorbed some lead from their paint-burning operations particularly. Especially because of the attitude of the men and of their immediate

supervisor it was thought advisable to have them seen by a physician. Therefore, a call was made to Dr. Frank R. Griffin of Toronto who has done preemployment examinations for us and he was asked to make an examination of the four men. Mr. Penrose has some sample bottles in storage in Toronto and these will be used not only for the collection of urine samples from the complaining men but also on the other men of the group of ten who do not have any complaints.

Dr. Griffin will report his findings to us and send us unstained blood films from the complaining men.

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.