

September 13, 1949

Dr. S.L. Rankin
E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
Du Pont Building
Wilmington 98, Delaware

Dear Rankin:

In accordance with my promise I send you herewith a memo stating the present status of the problem of cleaning small gasoline tanks.

In a brief explanation of the procedure of these observations, I should like to point out that an effort was made to find several groups of men engaged in some cleaning, but mostly in repair work, on tanks of this sort. The effort was also made to observe these men while doing their work more or less in their own manner, without taking unusual precautions. The question in our minds was whether or not these men working in this manner incurred really significant exposure to lead compounds. I shall not go into the details of the work, its methods and its difficulties. Rather I give you again the conclusions in a brief way. I believe you will agree that if these conclusions have been arrived at on reasonable grounds, we have no alternative but to extend our study of this problem to the point at which firm and definite conclusions, concerning the safety of these men, can be arrived at. The position I take, therefore, is that we must, for the present, continue to prescribe precautionary measures in connection with this work. There is certainly no justification for relaxation of present efforts, and it may be that we shall find that some additional effort will have to be made to safeguard these men. I am not prepared to make any recommendations for changes in our technique at this time.

For obvious reasons I wish you to regard the memo attached hereto as confidential. By that I do not mean that you should not communicate its contents to responsible people.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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