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Florida State Board of Health

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POST OFFICE
BOX 210

JACKSONVILLE 1
August 6, 1948

BUREAU OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES
R. F. SONDAG, M.D.
DIRECTOR

DIVISIONS
VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
CANCER CONTROL

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, Director
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your letter of August 2, 1948 concerning the death of [REDACTED] from lead poisoning. Your information has been most interesting because our industrial hygiene chemist, Mr. W. E. MacDonald, Jr., has made analyses on some of the tissues in this case.

While the Florida Industrial Commission is holding a hearing on this case, we do not feel that there will be any serious controversy with respect to the cause of death. However, a peculiar situation has arisen which is totally apart from compensation. This man carried an insurance policy. In the small print of the policy was a statement that insurance would not be paid if the man died as a result of taking poison or inhaling poisonous gas voluntarily or involuntarily. This may involve a civil suit later on and quite likely one of the points will be whether or not poisoning was by inhalation or by skin absorption, and another will be whether the volatilized tetra ethyl was a gas or a vapor. This suit is outside of my jurisdiction of course, but it will be interesting to follow.

Our laboratory findings in connection with [REDACTED] were as follows:

<u>Lab. Ser. No.</u>	<u>Description of Sample</u>	<u>Lead Content</u>
241	Liver	3.2 mgs./100 grams
242	Kidney	1.1 mgs./100 grams
243	Brain	0.86 mgs./100 grams
244	Urine (Post Mortem)	0.43 mgs./ Liter

When urine analyses are complete, perhaps you will be kind enough to forward us a copy of them so that our chemist may have some standard

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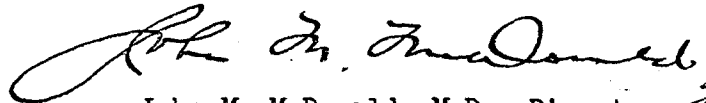
Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

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of comparison for his work. We have been doing lead analyses for only about two years and consequently are anxious to check findings whenever possible.

With best personal regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John M. McDonald, M.D., Director
Division of Industrial Hygiene

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