

April 15, 1941

Mr. H. W. Toomey
Pan American Airways
Miami
Florida

Dear Mr. Toomey:

I have received fairly full information concerning the difficulties associated with the sediment in gasoline supplied to your people from the Port Arthur refinery of the Texas Company. This information has come both from safety representatives of Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and also from my associate Dr. Karl Kitzmiller, who met with you in Miami in a recent conference over this question.

We have also received some chamols filters and some gasoline containing the sediment, and I will report to you the results of our examination of these materials when the analyses have been completed.

The present communication concerns a number of your men who were employed under conditions involving exposure by inhalation of the sediment suspended in the air during repair and cleaning operations. According to Dr. Kitzmiller's statements these men should be examined by Dr. Lee of your Medical Department, since for a number of reasons, it seemed undesirable for Dr. Kitzmiller to conduct the examinations. Reference has been made to our supplying containers for the collection of samples of urine and blood, the samples to be analyzed here. I wish to express my interest in giving every possible assistance, and I shall be glad to comment on any questions which may arise in connection with the examination of your employees. Moreover I shall see that the containers are sent, together with instructions for the collection of the samples, if it seems desirable that this be done. My own feeling is that considering the length of time which has elapsed since the severest exposure of your men, analytical information obtained at this time may not be either necessary or useful. It would probably serve very little useful purpose unless there is some illness or some anxiety, or some suspicion of illness among your men. If for any reason Dr. Lee considers it desirable to obtain analyses of the excreta

of the men, we shall be very happy to carry them out. However we shall await instructions here from you or from him in this connection before sending the containers. Perhaps I should point out further that if there is any question in the minds of any of these men concerning any permanent damage to their health, our experience justifies the statement that no such permanent or persistent injury is to be expected. All of the evidence demonstrates quite clearly that men either recover completely from this type of poisoning, or they develop an acute fatal intoxication rather promptly. I think, therefore, you need have no anxiety as to the future of these men, if the conditions which gave rise to exposure have been completely eliminated. It appears from all of my information that this has been accomplished so far as your repair men are concerned, and I hope that we shall be able to give you any assistance that may be required in eliminating any dangers at more remote points. In this connection you will undoubtedly have available technical representatives of Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, but if anything should occur to suggest that our advice or assistance might be useful to you, I hope you will not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:ia

Robert A. Kahoe, M.D.