

December 1, 1937

Mr. E. W. Webb
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Webb:-

This is just a hurried note which I will not have an opportunity to sign but I want to take the opportunity to call your attention to two suits which involve the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation rather directly.

The one which came to a head at the time of your trip to Baton Rouge and which would have prevented my being there even if I had promised to go, was really a suit against the Packard Motor Company brought by a man named Banker who claimed that he had contracted lead poisoning from exposure to the exhaust gas in his automobile as a consequence of a leaking heater of the exhaust type. This case has been pending for some years, and I considered it a very dangerous one originally although it had no real merit. Fortunately the attorneys who presented the case did a rather bad job in preparation with the result that there was a directed verdict from the bench immediately after the presentation of the plaintiff's case.

The other case is that of a man named Hubbard in Bennetsville, South Carolina, against the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey for negligence in failing to warn him of the dangers of Ethyl Gasoline, exposure to which inadvertently resulted in damage to his eyesight. This case is entirely without merit, there being no doubt of the nature of the claimant's illness. The case was tried about two years ago, at which time the jury disagreed after a rather difficult time on the part of the defense. I am going to Bennetsville on Saturday, December 4th, and will probably be in Bennetsville for several days. I trust we may achieve the same result this time and if so, the case will probably not appear again. On the other hand this is an awkward case because of the claimant's unfortunate condition.

Incidentally while I am in South Carolina, it occurs to me that it might be useful,

Mr. Webb (cont)

if I have the time, to visit the Bromine plant. I have no idea how close it is to where I am going, but I shall probably have time to go to it if it is not too far away.

I am leaving Cincinnati tonight to visit the Dow people at Midland, Michigan. They are making use of tetraethyl lead in an operation which is probably not being handled with every possible precaution. I considered it wise to look into the matter which no doubt can be taken care of without difficulty.

I am planning to call on a number of the executives of certain of the oil companies to discuss with them certain phases of the problem of tank cleaning. In connection with this I shall visit New York in the near future and I should like to make it a point to see you while I am there in order to discuss several matters. I wish, therefore, you would drop me a line at your convenience and let me have some idea of when you expect to be in New York for several days straight running. I can then arrange my schedule so as to meet your convenience. In any case I will let you know when I expect to be there.

regards, I am

With kindest personal

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.