

August 19, 1933

Mr. R. L. Jordan
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
310 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Confirming my telephone conversation of August 18th with Mr. Tully, I wish to make a brief report on the status of the case of Mr. [REDACTED] agent for the Johnson Oil Company in North Judson, Indiana.

Dr. Schradin's investigation of the matter with the physicians in the case disclosed the fact that Mr. [REDACTED] died rather unexpectedly having had an illness of some weeks. The peculiarities of the case were such that a very careful study would have been required in arriving at the certain diagnosis. There were certain points which suggested the possibility of lead poisoning but in the absence of a history of significant exposure and lacking any satisfactory evidence that lead absorption had occurred, such a diagnosis could not be substantiated. The family physician in the case, Dr. A. Fisher, had based his tentative opinion that lead was a factor on certain symptoms together with the fact that the patient had worked with leaded gasoline. Dr. Fisher does not feel his initial opinion can be justified and for this reason he signed the death certificate indicating that the illness had been multiple sclerosis. It is Dr. Schradin's opinion that the wife of the deceased believes that he was poisoned by handling gasoline. However, Dr. Fisher denies that he suggested gasoline as the source of the lead and since he is of the opinion that the diagnosis of lead poisoning could not be supported in any court action, he would not wish to appear in such a case and would undoubtedly attempt to dissuade the family from taking any action in court.

As a consequence of these facts, we are of the opinion that no further action will be taken in this case and we should be disposed to advise that no further cognizance be taken of it unless for some reason the whole question should be re-opened.

I am making a full report to New York, and I should appreciate it very much having a copy of the letters which were responsible for bringing this to the attention of your office in order that our file on the case may be completed.

Very truly yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.