

-
Dr. Alfred Von Frisch
Vienna, Austria

DOZENT
DR. A. V. V. FRISCH
TEL. U 22-1-83

W I E N March 7, 1936.
I. HELFERSTORFERSTRASSE 4

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
General Hospital.

Dear Sir :-

I really have to apologize for not having reacted sooner to your letter and to the special copies of your papers on lead poisoning and its prevention. I gladly take this opportunity to thank you for these papers which I have perused with the greatest of interest.

There is nothing of interest that I could report to you in connection with my activity on behalf of the Ethyl Export Corporation. In the course of the one year past there have been no cases of poisoning and the number of mixtures made has been relatively small owing to the newness of the matter in Central Europe. You will probably be interested to hear that the average condition of the teeth of the Czech labourers is so bad that the majority of the people proposed had to be refused as unfit for the handling of ethyl fluid. With a view to the instructions issued by the Ethyl Export Corporation I have been guided accordingly although according to the opinion prevalent in Austria the danger of lead poisoning by inhalation is considered greater than by oral intoxication.

In Austria the State Health Authorities are beginning to interest themselves in ethyl mixtures and the possible damages to labourers resulting from the same. The chief of the Industrial Hygienic Department of the State Health Department, Hofrat Professor Dr. Ernst Brezina, a recognized expert in the

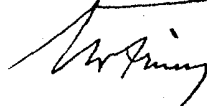
KE 0013552

field of industrial hygiene, has inspected the Kargan plant during the last few days and I have had the opportunity of thoroughly discussing with him all protective arrangements. Insofar as they referred to the mixing plant he has considered them to be sufficient and practicable in every respect. As concerns the question of a possible danger to those persons handling the ready ethyl gasoline, such as station operators etc., the question is somewhat different. I would be very much obliged to you indeed, if you could answer some questions in this connection for my own information, as well as for the information of the State Health Inspectors. In this regard I beg to refer to the postscript to your letter of April 2nd 1935, advising, that you would send to me a study on the lead absorption of filling station and garage mechanics.

Which dangers exist for those persons handling ethyl gasoline? Are there many cases of lead poisoning of those persons? Which preventive measures are customary in America or which preventive measures are required by the authorities? Here there is rather a tendency of seeing considerable danger in the handling of ethyl gasoline and of probably requiring protective measures and periodical medical examinations by the authorities, all of which may hinder the distribution of ethyl gasoline and may affect the commercial rentability. When replying to my questions kindly consider that I intend to show your letter to Professor Brezina with whom I am on friendly terms since many years and who regards you as the first expert in the field of tetra ethyl lead poisoning.

I hope that my request will not cause you any undue inconvenience and ask you to accept my best thanks beforehand.

Yours very truly



KE 0013553