

OFFICE OF
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
AND SANITATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
UNITED STATES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.
September 14, 1936

September 12, 1936.

Mr. John L. Spivak,
31 East 27th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Spivak: General,

U. S. Public Health Service,
Wash. D. C.
This is in further reference to our conversation of last week at which time I promised to send to you today a statement concerning methanol (rough Division of Scientific Research)

I have looked into this matter at some length, since you were here and have assembled available information. It is likely that my statement goes into too much detail for your purpose, but I have written it with a view to making the facts clear to the readers of your newspaper, most of whom do not have as much knowledge concerning this matter as you do.

York City.

You made some reference to the fact that the final report of the Bureau of Mines had not yet been published. I have taken this matter up with the Bureau of Mines and find that the manuscript will be published by the end of the present calendar year.

You called my attention to the fact that the studies made by Doctor Sayers at the Bureau of Mines were financed by the manufacturers of methanol. This is a regular procedure in the Department of Commerce and I am sure that insofar as relates to the studies carried out by Doctor Sayers and other members of my staff, the source of the funds for the research did not influence the findings. This was a definite understanding at the time the study was undertaken.

Since talking with you I have refreshed my memory also concerning the publications of certain investigators who have reached conclusions different from those of Doctor Sayers. With the knowledge now available, I believe there would be very little, if any, difference of opinion at the present time between any reputable investigators and members of the Public Health Service who have been intimately concerned with this problem.

I appreciated very much the opportunity of discussing this matter with you. If in the course of your inquiries you find convincing evidence of methanol poisoning, under conditions as that material is being used in industry, I hope you will bring them promptly to my attention, and I can assure you of a careful and thorough investigation.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd) Thomas Parran

Surgeon General

TP:AMM

Handwritten: Sent files 10/13/36
AMM