

Copy to Dr. Machle

April 29, 1941

Mr. Harry Kaley
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Harry:

I am sending you herewith a memorandum given me by Dr. Schradin, which I believe is self-explanatory. However I call your attention specifically to the fact that the salesman, D. H. Elder, who is mentioned in this memorandum, is the same man that was examined by Dr. Machle in Denver, and was fully informed at that time of the dangers associated with handling the product carelessly. This same chap is now engaged in assuring persons to whom he peddles his samples that there is little or no danger involved in dealing with the material.

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It is obviously somewhat ticklish problem to handle this situation with customers of the Corporation, and yet I think it is necessary to call this matter to the attention of Division Managers, so that in the course of their conversation with executives of their customer companies, they will point out the possibility of this type of sales approach and warn their people against accepting the statements of such salesmen that products of this kind can be handled without danger. It is nothing short of astonishing to me that the chemist in this case accepted the word of Elder that he could handle the sample without danger. The fact that this has occurred is proof that it is likely to happen again, and we should certainly do everything we can to warn people who may come in contact with it of the dangers that are involved.

I think that in this particular instance Mr. Shank or one of his men should visit the Champlin Refining Company at Enid, to make sure whether

or not they have disposed of the material which they have on hand, and to check with reference to their safe handling of whatever may be in their possession.

I have forwarded a sample of this material to Dr. Calingaert for such observations as he may wish to make. Accordingly, any information which you may wish as to the composition of the sample can be obtained from him. No doubt we shall hear from him, and I will forward any information obtained to you.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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Sample of Sipo (Silent Power) obtained April 2, 1941 from chief chemist of Champlin Refining Company, Enid, Oklahoma.

After making routine medical examinations of the blenders at above plant, the handling of concentrated fluid in the Laboratory was discussed with Mr. Champlin, the chief chemist. While the usual liter can of fluid obtained for Ethyl Gasoline Corporation was kept in the hood, it was learned that they had some additional fluid which had been sent to them for comparison and experimental work with the idea of providing fluid for commercial use in the future. This fluid which was in two tin gallon cans and similar to varnish cans with screw caps, was on the laboratory floor. It had been delivered a few weeks earlier by a D. H. Elder, C. A. Johnson Building, Denver, Colorado to the company's office in Enid in no other covering, and the cans contained no label as to their contents but each had a tag on it with the above name of the salesman.

According to the chemist, the fluid was described as fifty per cent tetraethyl lead in a carrier to which dye had been added. It was described as being superior to the fluid marketed by the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation in that it was so treated in blending that it was relatively much less harmful and could be handled without taking all of the usual precautions. However it was supposedly of equal value as an anti-knock compound as the fluid they were now using. On inquiring as to its cost, it was to cost approximately five dollars per gallon and according to the chemist, this was for the lead content and not the blended TEL. He had no knowledge as to where it was manufactured and did not know the salesman. He stated, however, he had run samples of

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the fluid in gasoline along with samples using the laboratory fluid obtained from the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and found it about equal in anti-knock value.

A sample of the fluid was obtained from one of the cans and I was interested in seeing how he handled it. He poured it from the can into the four ounce bottle on one of the laboratory desks, using a glass funnel and took no precautions as to vapors or possible spills. No gloves were used and he smelled it, inviting me to smell it to see if a benzol odor could be detected.

The fluid had apparently stratified in the can and he shook it before obtaining the sample. He said it had also changed color since he used it a few weeks earlier. At that time it was much lighter in color, similar to the ordinary yellow fluid they had been using.

He was warned as to the dangers involved in handling the fluid as he did, and promised to dispose of the two cans of fluid in a proper manner.

The above was not discussed with Mr. E. J. Slater, the refinery superintendent who was busy, and to my knowledge he does not know that I obtained the sample, although I am sure he would have no objections.

Signed: L. J. Schradin, M.D.

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