



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy - TCS,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
November 21, 1952.

Dear Bob:

I would like to report to you a practice I have observed in Ethiopia in handling motor gasoline.

The filling stations in Addis Ababa use pumps. None of the pumps is labeled as delivering ethyl gasoline, but the fluid is colored and we understand is leaded. Both Shell and Caltex have stations here.

On leaving for country trips our drivers take along extra supplies of fuel, in 5 gallon "jerry cans" or 50 gallon drums. To transfer gasoline to the tank of the car they are accustomed to siphon through a rubber hose, setting up the siphon by mouth. This impresses me as an unpleasant and dangerous practice, as well as inefficient. I have tried to find small hand pumps in Addis Ababa, so far without success. There used to be many in Siam, made locally from oil tins.

I would be glad to have you comment on the situation, and make any suggestions. Perhaps the lead problem should be brought to the attention of the two companies.

This is a very interesting country, with much health work to be done. Susan seems to be having a good year at Miami. My best to Lucile and yourself.

Sincerely yours,

oB

Henry R. O'Brien, MD;
Public Health Representative.

Dr. Robert Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Release this to me please
so I will be remembered to
take this up with your people*