

Mr. Donaldson

November 12, 1926.

Mr. W. J. Patterson, Mgr.,
Atlantic Refining Company,
Chamber of Commerce Bldg.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Mr. Patterson.

I am writing you concerning your former employee, Mr. [REDACTED] who is now in the Cannonsburg Hospital under the care of Doctor John A. Johnston.

In view of the importance of this case and its relationship to the industrial and public health hazards of Ethyl gasoline, I wish to make sure that the relationships existing between this man and his physicians be maintained in the most cooperative spirit. As I told you in conversation in your office some days ago I do not believe that the present condition is due to his handling of Ethyl Gasoline. However, if it should turn out to be impossible to make a certain diagnosis of some other condition, the portion of evidence and medical opinion will in all probability tend to a diagnosis of lead poisoning. It behooves you, therefore, and all of us who have any connection with the matter, to maintain an open mind and a willingness to do whatever is good and proper for the welfare of this man. In this connection it is exceedingly important that no obstruction of any kind be put in the way of the routine machinery of State compensation, and that no feeling of any unwillingness to take care of the financial end of his medical care be expressed.

I am sure that in the event of a diagnosis of lead poisoning that you and your company will be glad to do what you can for [REDACTED]. I only wish to ask you specifically in the absence of conclusive evidence one way or the other to be exceedingly careful not to place yourself or your company in the embarrassing position of refusing assistance because of your doubt as to the cause of his trouble. Meanwhile I should be glad to lend every effort to discover exactly what is the cause of this illness and whatever we discover will be reported to you in due time, with such advice and suggestions as it is possible for us to make.

I wish to thank you for your courtesy and for the opportunity of visiting and inspecting quite a number of your filling stations. In this connection I may later have some suggestions to make as to some of your filling equipment. I did suggest to Mr. Lane that a rather careful check be made on any seepage

W.J.Patterson

November 12, 1926.

Page # 2

of gasoline over the stuffing boxes and nozzles down over the hose and all such lines as carry Ethyl gasoline, in order that there may be no occasion for the frequent and continual wetting of the hands of the operator. In the main, however, there is very little criticism to be offered about your filling station equipment, and after examining it I was all the more convinced of the insignificant exposure to lead occasioned in the handling of Ethyl Gasoline as you handle it.

Very truly yours,

RAK:OJ

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