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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

April 10, 1967

To: All Members of the LIA Health and Safety Committee

Re: Address by Dr. Albert V. Creve, Director, Argonne National Laboratory,
before The American Physical Society, March 29, 1967, Chicago

We thought you might be interested in the remarks of a well recognized scientist who addressed this meeting in a philosophical mood and touched upon the impact of science on air pollution and crime.

Dr. Creve had the following to say about lead pollution from the automobile:

"Each of us is suffering from lead poisoning due to inhalation of gasoline fumes. It is nonsense to protest that it is harmless -- we just don't know and it is a difficult scientific problem to find out. It has been pointed out that in only a few years time there will be no human being who is free from lead poisoning -- that is, we will no longer have a standard of reference. In addition, oil companies are now experimenting with Nickel and other additives. What damage -- if any -- these new additives will do no one knows. We can be sure, however, that the F.D.A. would not allow such additives in food without some evidence as to its effect on life.

The automobile is also responsible for another surprising air pollutant -- asbestos fibers. Again each of us has a considerable amount of asbestos in our systems and we have no idea as to its effect. Two scientific problems exist here -- what is the effect of asbestos poisoning, and is there a reasonable alternative."

Very truly yours,

Don G. Fowler

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DDP:BV



Look Ahead with Lead