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11/29/56
November 29, 1956

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
60 East 42nd Street
New York City 17

Dear Manfred:

I cannot attend the meeting of Z-37 on December 6 because of an overfilled schedule. I regret this more, because it prevents me from seeing and talking with you and Mr. Ziegfield, than on account of the consequences of my absence from the meeting of the Committee.

I don't know what can be done about the attitudes of manufacturers and others toward lead enamels. Certainly for many of the uses to which enamels are put, the use of lead offers no very great practical problem. If I were a manufacturer of enameled cooking utensils, enameled containers of one kind or another for food, and enameled sheets to be used in contact with food, I believe that I should avoid lead in more than a very low concentration in the enamel, but otherwise I should make use of it so long as consideration of economy and quality of product provide justification. The hygienic problem in the manufacturing operation is not very difficult to solve in an entirely satisfactory manner.

Your problem, I fear, is that of substituting knowledge of the facts for misinformation. The problem would not be so difficult, if it were the substitution of knowledge for ignorance. Misinformation is so different from ignorance. The process of its uprooting is painful, prolonged and, at best, incomplete. I do not despair, so far as the ultimate outcome is concerned, but I hardly think that dramatic results can be achieved quickly. If you think otherwise, I'll be glad to have your ideas.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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