

CONTACT REPORT

Telephone Conversation with Mr. S. Smith Griswold, Air Pollution Control Officer, Los Angeles County.

Date: September 22, 1959

This call was to determine whether or not Mr. Griswold's recent anti-high lead press release indicated that he had changed his mind regarding action relative to limiting TEL concentration. Mr. Griswold stated that the release, which appeared in the Los Angeles papers on September 18th, was necessitated by the Surgeon General's release that had appeared earlier in the week. He felt that because of the publicity which certain anti-lead proponents had recently received he was forced to "defend himself politically" by making the release that he did. His statement in the release, "we have seen no evidence to show that such an increase will not have a deleterious effect on health," was made because he had not, at the time, received any information from the U.S. Public Health Service. He had just received from the USPHS the Kettering Laboratory "Memorandum on the Hygienic Aspects of a Proposed Increase in the Maximum Limit of the Concentration of Tetraethyllead in Motor Gasoline to Four Milliliters per American Gallon." It was apparent that he was unhappy with the USPHS for the delay in making available the complete ad hoc committee report. (We have just learned through a letter from Dr. H. J. Magnuson to D. A. Hirschler regarding one of our memoranda to be included in the report that the USPHS has not even started publication of the entire report.)

His Scientific Advisory Committee is meeting September 30th, but a review of the question of TEL concentration is not on the agenda. He did, however, believe that it would be discussed and that a meeting to review all aspects of increased TEL useage would probably be scheduled with this Committee for the latter part of October. He again stated that he intends no immediate legislative action to control TEL concentration and that so far there has been no pressure from any of the political or advisory groups on this subject. He said that he would advise us if any change should develop.

KE 0005005

N 7213

Mr. Griswold had just returned from an Advisory Committee meeting called by the California State Department of Health group charged with establishing air standards. He said that a decision had been made to include lead in the air standards legislation but that it would not be included in the automobile exhaust standards to be issued at the same time.


H. E. Hesselberg

HEH:br

cc:

Messrs. J. E. Boudreau
H. J. Gibson
L. L. Huxtable
R. A. Kehoe
G. F. Kirby
M. P. Murdock
R. K. Scales
K. Swartwood
B. B. Turner