

Personal and Confidential

November 25, 1936

Dr. Graham Edgar
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Graham:

During the past year we have obtained a number of small samples of sea water from different parts of the ocean. We have been able to analyze these with approximate accuracy but we are not quite content with the results which we have obtained. Cholak would like to have one or two gallon samples taken in such a way as to avoid local contaminating influences. It occurred to me that we might very easily get some samples at or near the site of the promine plant. I wonder, therefore, if you would give me the name of someone to whom I could write who would be most likely to get the kind of samples that we want.

For your private ear, I should like to point out to you that when Lewis was here a few days ago, he showed me a letter from Mr. Harper's office, I believe, in which the question was raised as to whether or not air-line masks might not be employed at one of the South American mixing plants instead of the canister masks which we specify. You will remember that I pointed out that this plant was using air-line masks and recommended that you ask Roberts to see that the specified masks were employed. This was done by Roberts with the result that the change was made, but apparently somewhat grudgingly. Either Mr. Harper or someone in his office sent this report on to Lewis and called him up, asking for permission to use the air-line masks over Robert's recommendation to the contrary. Lewis was apparently disposed to take the matter in his own hands and agree to the use of the air-line masks, until I pointed out to him the circumstances as well as the

I mention this to you because it is my feeling that the activities of Lewis as Chairman of the Safety Committee should not be extended beyond the limits of the United States. Moreover I think that all information and correspondence on matters of policy with regard to foreign concerns should go only through the hands of those persons who are now faced with the responsibility

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in these fields. I think you should develop the understanding in the New York office that for the present, at least, all matters which concern South America should come through your hands since no one else is aware of all of the developments. Perhaps I should have told Lewis to take this matter up with you and perhaps I should have pointed out to him that he should not take any action on matters in which you were concerned, without consulting you. However I neglected to do this but only put him right on the circumstances.

This is a matter of no great consequence in this instance and yet it might get us in very embarrassing situations if we are to allow conditions to exist which might result in contradictory instructions. I wrote Lewis some time ago, pointing out that in my opinion the safety organization should not develop at this time beyond the confines of the United States and Canada. I had distinctly in mind, although I did not say so specifically, that I felt he should confine his own actions and recommendations to the local field. Certainly he should do this until he has had the experience and familiarity with all of our problems that will enable him to work effectively and intelligently. I do not have the idea that he would deliberately extend his activities for the sake of authority, but I do think he is perhaps a little unaware of the scope and significance of his own work in this field at present.

I give you this information for what it may be worth to you.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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