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ETHYL EXPORT CORPORATION

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17th November, 1936.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati,
Ohio U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter we have received from S.I.A.P. in connection with the man Vescia whose name you will remember.

Unfortunately, the report of Professor Preti referred to is in Italian but I hope you will not have any great difficulty in getting this translated.

Professor Preti's examination would seem to confirm the views expressed by yourself and Dodds namely, that the complaint from which this man is suffering has no connection with tetraethyl lead. The situation is, however, awkward in that the Italo-Americana wish to get rid of this man. He has done no work for two years, and for reasons connected with their labour laws they would prefer to discharge him with the compensation to which he is entitled rather than keep him on the pay-roll indefinitely. They warn us, however, that this may involve them in a law suit for further compensation and should this law suit come about our name is bound to be brought in since his story will be that his health has been ruined due to tetraethyl lead poisoning contracted whilst in the employ of S.I.A.P. You will remember of course, that this man was not employed at a mixing plant, but was called in contrary to all regulations to adjust a faulty pump. He later complained of sickness which was diagnosed by our consultant ! at Monopoli as lead poisoning. The Ital-Americana have looked after him ever since and on each occasion that he was sent back to work he immediately complained of feeling ill and was placed on the sick list once more.

After talking it over with Hawkins we have agreed that we may just as well face the possibility of a suit at this time as later and it is therefore, the intention of S.I.A.P. to dispense with the services of this man allowing him as mentioned previously all the compensation that is due to him. (I do not know

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what this entails, but I take it that he will be well taken care of).

It seems to me that our position is fairly clear although we may have to face some small amount of publicity in Italy, I see no reason why it should amount to anything serious, but would appreciate any views you may have on the matter.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

KE 0007153

12th November, 1936.

Michele Vescia

Ethyl Export Corporation,
Thames House, Millbank,
London. S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

Following up the correspondence exchanged in re the above, we herewith append memorandum from Prof. Luigi Preti commenting on [redacted] physical condition. We regret not being able to hand you an English translation of this memorandum, but as the same is based on technical determinations we lack the services of a competent translator who could thoroughly carry out this work in the strict medical sense. We, therefore, submit same to you in the original and trust that Dr. Kehoe's knowledge of Latin and French will be of assistance to him in reviewing this study.

We might add that we feel that the [redacted] case was very competently handled by Prof. Preti, and that the result of his search work corroborates the opinion expressed by your medical friends in London, namely, that [redacted] showed no lead intoxication, and that the symptoms and signs of which he complained of at the time of exposure can be ascribed to inhalation of Gasoline fumes, which are interpreted as being the primary contributory evidence of [redacted] intoxication.

So that you may more readily form an opinion, briefly summarize Prof. Preti's closing comments:-

"From the foregoing it can be concluded that:

- 1) From the symptomatology presented on July 5th, 1934, the existence of lead intoxication has not been sufficiently demonstrated and one cannot therefore admit that there was an intoxication due to lead exposure.
- 2) In view of the inadmissibility of an initial lead intoxication, ~~and~~ the symptoms noticed by Vescia after carrying out his work on July 5th, 1934, can be ascribed to Gasoline intoxication.
- 3) At the present time there does not exist any sign or lesion from lead intoxication.

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- 4) The eventual symptoms from which [REDACTED] is actually complaining, if a period of time will confirm this, is due to an ophthalmoscopic phenomena which has been observed in the papillai of his right eye, and which can be ascribed to a phenomena of pressure on the optic nerve from the chiasma to the optic foramen, which lesion, with all certainty, can be excluded as having been caused from lead intoxication.

In order to clarify this statement we think it well to mention that in the body of Prof. Preti's report he indicates the possibility of the existence of a tumour or other substance which may explain the aforementioned lesions. This diagnosis, however, can only be confirmed with the passing of time and he concludes that if this existence could be determined it would explain the cause for [REDACTED] continued complaints and the disturbances which have been noticed.

In view of the foregoing it is going to be very difficult for us to dispose of this case, especially as [REDACTED] is only physically fit to undertake the lightest form of work. We must also not lose sight of the fact that he has been a faithful and competent employee of this company for close on to the past 20 years, which fact complicates the company's position vis-a-vis the existing Labour Syndicate regulations, and which we are at present trying to reconcile, in order to meet this special case. Prior to taking any definite action in the matter, however, we would welcome an expression from you.

Yours very truly,
SOCIETA' ITALO AMERICANA DEL PETROLIO

Managing Director

CCC/JR
Encl.

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