

October 14, 1936

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

Dear Graham:

I am sending you herewith a copy of my reply to Mr. R. P. Harland whose inquiry you referred to me in your letter of September 28th.

I originally thought of pointing out to him that at the present time the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation issued no instructions concerning the handling of gasoline. However I hesitated to put this on record in view of several matters: first, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, (and perhaps other companies) has issued instructions which on their face appear to apply specifically to leaded gasoline. It would seem bad policy to openly state that they have done this on their own responsibility although the latter is the case. Second, the initial regulations published by the United States Public Health Service have not been officially modified, and so far as I know the Service has not put itself on record as approving of our discontinuance of leaflets of instructions and regulations at filling stations. Their point of view in this is similar to mine. I am not sure that they would publicly agree with me on the record if for no other reason than that they would consider too close an agreement between us as bad policy. We might, therefore, appear to have neglected the carrying out of the regulations if I were to state specifically that we had not issued any kind of instructions. I do not believe all this is of great importance, but I have been very cautious in replying to this gentleman because I have not wished to get us into any awkward position. I have taken the trouble, therefore, to express what I have said about it as my own personal opinion without saying anything about the practices and responsibilities of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation. I make this clear in my letter to you because, as you know, it is not my custom to hedge on matters of this sort, and because, also, one deals with certain members of the legal group at his own peril.

Sincerely yours,

N20453