

May 7, 1935

Dr. H. B. Wright
Hanna Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Wright:

Allow me to thank you for your letter of May 4th and for the telephone call of a few days ago about your patient who has a polycythemia.

The purpose of this letter is to express my general point of view to you about the manner of handling leaded gasoline at air ports. Perhaps I can best state the background of my point of view by sending to you, as I am doing herewith, a report of an article which we published some time ago. This article will be followed shortly by a rather lengthy one which is the result of certain more detailed studies. The results substantiate the conclusions which I originally arrived at to the effect that the hazards of exposure to leaded gasoline in the present concentrations are too small and insignificant to be measured by even the very delicate methods which we have employed. I am of the opinion that leaded gasoline should not be used either for cleaning various parts or for general use in cleaning motors. In the first place, there is no advantage gained by using leaded fuel for this purpose, and there is so far as I can see no point in permitting any question of risk by such means. Of more importance, however, is the fact that there are certain reasons for believing that from time to time new materials may be added to gasoline for aeronautical purposes, and it is quite likely that eventually the lead concentration permitted in such fuels will be higher than it is at the present time. It is very bad practice, in my opinion, to permit the development of practices which may eventually result in unnecessary exposure of workmen to any and all materials which may be added to gasoline. Fuel is intended for use as a fuel and not for the thousand and one other purposes for which it might conceivably be used. I believe, therefore, the attitude of motor people should be consciously developed so that they will understand that their fuels shall not be used

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Dr. H. B. Wright

for any purpose other than that for which they are
intended.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.