

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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2151 BERKELEY WAY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

January 7, 1963

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
The Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine - Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

Thank you for your letter of December 17th, regarding your meeting with the American Potters Association and others. I shall, indeed, be most interested in your report on the testing of ceramics for lead and other, possibly harmful ingredients. I fully agree with you that a careful and complete report is much needed.

This Bureau will be most happy to be included in the mailing list for your findings when they are available, and I certainly appreciate being told of the present state of your discussion.

Recently we received information concerning a test method which referred to the square inches of surface covered by 100 mls of solution. The lead was reported in quantities per square inch. While it is certainly wise to relate the amount of lead to the surface area, I find it impossible to make a judgment on what that would mean as compared to 150 mls of liquid dissolving lead off the inside of a cup. I wonder if you are going to recommend a standard which is transferable to different surface areas of ceramic glaze tested, or whether you intend to relate your quantitative results to the number of cc's of solution in which the lead is dissolved, or both. I am also wondering whether you are going to demand a retesting of the same surface in border-line cases.

We are certainly glad that you undertook the solution of this problem, and will await your report with great interest.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Mitchell, M.D., Chief
Bureau of Occupational Health

Christine Einert
Christine Einert, M.D.

December 17, 1962

Amy Christine Linert, M.D.
California Department of Public Health
2151 Berkeley Way
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Doctor Linert:

In a meeting with representatives of the American Potters Association and certain other interested persons last week, to consider what we had been doing by way of investigation, and what we should do further, I encountered some degree of concern within the group about their not having reported to you on the status of the problem. It appeared to me at the time that I might well write to you and tell you where matters stand. I suggested this to the group, saying that I would like you to understand the attitude of the Kettering Laboratory with respect to such reporting, as well as the other matters at issue.

We have had an opportunity, with the complete cooperation of the people in the Association and in the industry, to carry out a series of tests on samples of table ware that would appear to be representative. Starting with a few samples, we have expanded our observations in various ways, in an effort to establish certain basic facts without which I, at least, could not reach any very definite conclusion. I am not certain that all of the pertinent facts are in, but there are enough to justify certain tentative conclusions. We have a few more observations to make, and meanwhile, we are gathering as much information as possible about the past history of this matter in various countries.

Mr. Cholak and I have agreed to prepare a report in which we shall put together all the facts which we can establish from the work which we have done, as well as those which we can obtain from other sources. Thus far all we have done is to present raw data to the group and to use it to learn as much as possible about the industry, its business and technical attitudes, its way of producing and marketing its wares, and what it can and will do to define and accept its responsibilities. I am pleased with the manner in which we have been dealt with and I want to take whatever time is necessary to prepare a well considered report with recommendations.

When we have been able to complete this task, I would like to

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Amy Christine Binert, M.D.

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present you with a copy or copies of the report and sit down with you and your associates and discuss it thoroughly. Since the time which I can give to this is restricted somewhat by other duties in this Department, I cannot tell you just when this can be done, but I am anxious to get it done as quickly as possible, and I shall push it along as vigorously as circumstances will permit.

I shall be dependent, to some extent, of course, on the wishes of the people with whom and for whom we are working, but, so far as I have been able to see, there has been no obstacle in our way to the full and free exchange of professional information with you, your Department or any other official agency. As you are aware, I am sure, this is just about the only way that I can deal with situations relating to the public health.

With kindest regards, and also the Season's Greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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