

# HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

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From the Director of Health and Safety  
Lead Industries Association, Inc.  
292 Madison Ave.  
New York 17, N. Y.



Look Ahead with Lead

January 19, 1966

LEAD HYGIENE AND SAFETY BULLETIN  
No. 165

To All Members of the Lead Industries Association, Inc.:

Symposium on Environmental Lead Contamination  
Washington, D. C. December 13 - 15, 1965

Here is our brief report on a meeting attended by several representatives of LIA and others in the lead industry. Originally billed as a closed meeting of experts in an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Lead Contamination of the Environment (to be limited to 25 attendees), the meeting was actually held with the above title, was open to the press and anyone else, and was anything but a meeting of "experts". Approximately 100 were in attendance at the meeting which was sponsored by the U. S. Public Health Service Division of Air Pollution. Dr. C. C. Patterson, whose article on lead in the September 1965 Archives of Environmental Health provided the reason for this symposium, was not present.

Papers were presented and discussion was permitted on lead contamination of air, water and food. The general toxicology of lead was covered and opinions were expressed as to the completeness of our knowledge of the subject for occupational groups, the general population, the aged and infirm and for children. No new data were presented. The adequacy of our present knowledge concerning lead toxicology was questioned by many of those present, including the Federal people, geologists and some physicians. Press coverage made much of the "inadequate knowledge of lead toxicology" and these stories were widely distributed.

In the conference summary no recommendations were made for controlling lead usage in anything. However, informal recommendations were presented as suggestions for future research. In my opinion these recommendations were for the most part fair and reasonable. In general we have anticipated the need for research expressed at this symposium in our present and planned LINDO programs.

One additional area covered in the symposium was a presentation of the economics involved in the removal of lead from gasoline. It can be done but at a cost of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon, and a capital investment by the refining industry of 1 - 3 billion dollars. This would not be a popular move in the refining industry, and no enthusiasm was expressed for

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removal of lead from gasoline by any outside of the representatives of process equipment manufacturers who would reap a nice windfall from the changeover.

At the press conference held following the final session Mr. MacKenzie, chief of the Division of Air Pollution, was asked if he had any plans for removing lead from gasoline. His answer was a no but he said that he was "uneasy" due to the increased consumption of gasoline and increase in traffic. He then stressed his intention to investigate lead in the atmosphere thoroughly.

In summary, nothing really concrete came out of this meeting, except possibly the manifestation of intent to investigate all aspects of lead use by the federal government. This means that we can expect the subject of lead to remain in the public eye for some time to come.

Very truly yours,

*Don G. Fowler*

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DGF:ev

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Summary of Symposium on Environmental Lead Contamination, Washington  
December 13-15, 1965

1 cy each to the following

Elmer Varady, Milan

Morgan E. Davies, London

Bert Coes, Hill & Knowlton

Paul Higgins, Ft. E. H. Weiss

Red Johnston (1/19)

5 cys - E. Tiviere - Centre d'information du Plomb,  
Paris. 1re 78 requant - 20-2-66.

1 cy - E. Passaro (Montecatini, Italy) 2-9-66.