

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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To: LIA-ILZFO Lead Health and Safety Committee

cc: Industry Development Committee
LIA Board of Directors

We have obtained for you a copy of a speech given by Mr. Vernon G. MacKenzie, Chief of the Division of Air Pollution of the U. S. Public Health Service, entitled "Conservation of the Air Resource: A National Challenge." The speech was delivered on January 13, 1966 at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia and is interesting because it is the only expression we have thus far from Mr. MacKenzie following the December Lead Symposium in Washington.

"Another aspect of the motor vehicle pollution problem which requires increased attention now and planning for the future involves the need to control such contaminants as nitrogen oxides and lead. The motor vehicle is among the most important sources of both of these ubiquitous pollutants. The nitrogen oxides are a by-product of all combustion processes and are already of concern in some parts of the country. As fuel combustion increases, this problem will inevitably be magnified unless means of controlling it are developed and applied in the years immediately ahead.

With respect to lead contamination, which affects not only the quality of the air we breathe, but also that of our food and water, geochemical investigations have suggested that levels of lead in the environment have increased sharply in the past few decades. In addition, medical and biological evidence indicates that the margin of safety against physiologic damage resulting from lead intake into the human body may be relatively narrow, particularly among such segments of the general population as children and pregnant women. This point was given considerable emphasis at a scientific symposium on environmental lead contamination held last month by the Public Health Service.

We in the Public Health Service regard the recent symposium as the first step in a needed re-examination - by government, industry, and the scientific community - of the entire problem of environmental lead contamination. Among the questions that must be answered in this process is whether the use of increasing amounts

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Lead Added with Lead

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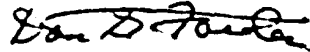
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of lead as an additive to gasoline is consistent with present and future needs for the protection of public health in this country. That this question is receiving attention at the highest levels of government is indicated by the fact that the November 1965 report of the Environmental Pollution Panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee included a proposal for registration of fuel additives not consumed during combustion."

Very truly yours,



Don G. Fowler

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