EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

New York, N. Y. August 8, 1933.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lead Industries Association was held in the Board Room of the American Smelting & Refining Co., New York City, on August 8, 1933, at 10:00 A.M.

Present	Representing
Clinton H. Crane, Chairman	St. Joseph Lead Co.
E. A. Behr	American Smelting & Refining Co.
R. W. Straus	" " " " "
R. M. Roosevelt	Eagle-Picher Lead Co.
W. C. Beschorman	National Lead Co.
J. A. McCarthy	United Metals Selling Co.
F. F. Colcord	United States Smelting Refining & Mining Co. Inc.
F. S. Mulock	

F. E. Wormser, Secretary.

Mr. Crane occupied the chair.

The Chairman presented a draft of a letter which it was proposed to submit to the Deputy Administrator of the National Recovery Administration as a petition for a modification of the President's Reemployment Agreement. After discussing it and making a few changes in the draft

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the letter, as follows, be approved and submitted to the Administrator in Washington, D. C.

> Under the provisions of Section 13 of the President's Reemployment Agreement we respectfully request substitution of Articles II, VI and VII of the Basic Code of Fair Competition for the Lead Industries, as submitted to the Administrator on August 1, 1933, for Sections 3, 6 and 9 of the President's Reemployment Agreement.

In accordance with your suggestion we submit the following data in support of our petition covering substitution:

Article II - Definitions

This substitution is proposed as no definitions covering the industry are included in the President's Agreement, and it is our belief that you are desirous of confining any modification of the President's Agreement to a specific industry. The definitions as outlined in this section have already been reviewed by your Control Division and it is felt fully cover the industry.

Article VI - Hours of Labor

The maximum number of hours per week for each Division in the lead industry are as follows:

Lead Mining Division	56 hours
Lead Smelting and Refining Division	56 hours
Lead Manufacturing Division	66 hours

The limitation of hours to 35 hours per week under the President's Agreement would work considerable hardship and is impracticable as respects the lead industry, which largely necessitates a continuous process requiring a 24-hour day and a 7-day week.

We estimate that operation of the Code will increase employment in the Lead Industries, for those companies now operating in excess of 40 hours, as follows:

Lead Mining Division	24%
Lead Smelting and Refining Division	20%
Lead Manufacturing Division	19%

Article VII - Minimum Wages

The following table gives a comparison of the minimum wages paid in the Lead Industry as of January and June, 1933, compared with those in the Lead Code:

	January 1933	June 1933	Proposed Lead Code
Lead Mining Division	28½	28½	35
Lead Smelting and Refining Division	25	25	35
Lead Pigments Division	24	29	35
Metallic Lead Products Division	20	20	35

Article IX - President's Code

It is believed that this paragraph is impossible of practicable application to the Lead Industry, as lead is a basic world commodity, the price of which is established by the open world market, which in turn is subject to the law of supply and demand. The entire price structure of lead products is therefore based upon the world market prices, and even if the industry wished to do so, could not "take profiteering advantage of the consuming public", since the price of lead is of necessity limited to the London price, plus the import tariff.

Lead and its compounds are produced from mines containing lead ores of various grades. Under conditions of restricted demand and low prices, only the richer mines, with a low cost per unit of lead, can be operated. As demand increases it becomes necessary to draw upon lower grade ores, with hither costs per unit of lead, and the price must necessarily rise sufficiently to permit such mines to operate. The marginal mines set the price for the product. The present domestic price of only 4.5 cents per pound is extremely low as is shown by the comparison with the average price of 7.45 cents per pound for the years 1925 through 1929, and the 9.02 cents average price for the year 1925.

To endeavor to hold the price at a given level, such as that of July 1, 1933, which was 4.20 cents per pound, would prevent the opening of more mines and the giving of additional employment. In fact, the increased costs of production under the Code might even cause the shutting down of mines that have already reopened, and thus throw men out of employment and defeat the purpose of the Act.

Conclusion

In order that employees and others may obtain the benefits of the Lead Code at the earliest possible date, and so that the members of the Association complying with the Code may at once be permitted to use the insignia of the National Recovery Administration, we respectfully urge that the substitution herein requested be made effective as quickly as possible.

Very truly yours,

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

F. E. Wormser

Secretary.

The Chairman called for an expression of opinion as to the necessity for the Foil Division of the Lead Industries Association supplying labor data in support of the Code of the Lead Industries Association. It was recommended that members of the Foil Division furnish the required labor data.

Two new applications for membership having been received

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the Lead Lined Iron Pipe Company be admitted to membership and the National Bearing Metals Corporation be reinstated to membership in the Lead Industries Association.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Clinton H. Crane
Chairman

F. E. Wormser
Secretary.

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