

September 7, 1940

Dr. Graham Edgar
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Graham:

Thanks very much for your
note of August 29th and the notice which you enclosed.

I shall probably be in
New York in the not too distant future, but I may have
the bad luck to be there when you are away. Therefore
it seems to be advisable to report the results of my
meeting with Dr. Thompson and Dr. Neal of the Public
Health Service. I discussed with them the entire series
of problems which have arisen and expressed my opinion
that it would be necessary to keep a rather sharp eye
on developments if the present satisfactory control
were to be maintained. After a very frank and full
discussion of the subject, Dr. Thompson suggested that
I prepare a memorandum covering the general situation
as I see it for his information and consideration. I
have prepared such a memorandum and sent it along to
him today. I am sending you a copy of it and I should
very much appreciate any comments, criticisms or suggestions
which you would like to make in connection with it. I do
not believe that I misinterpreted the attitude of executives
of the Corporation, but I deliberately did not consult you
or others in the preparation of this memorandum for the
reason that I felt it should be a frank expression of my
professional and disinterested point of view for the
information of the Public Health Service. As you well
know, it has been suggested, or perhaps only intimated,
that the Public Health Service was unduly sympathetic
with the interest of Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, and I
felt it was wise, therefore, to deal with this matter
as between one medical man and another. In a certain
sense, perhaps, this is silly, but I have always felt the
responsibility for dealing with the utmost professional

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frankness with the representatives of the Public Health Service, and I have followed that policy in this instance.

In the matter of manufacturing activities, Dr. Thompson expressed himself as being acutely interested and he specifically asked me to give him information as it developed in connection with these activities, and I promised to do so. I hope you will keep me fully informed of any new developments. In all other matters Dr. Thompson is assuming that I will pass on to him any information of hygienic importance which comes to my attention. For obvious reasons he would prefer that all such information should be transmitted through me. Obviously this does not mean that the executives of the Corporation could not consult him directly about any matter on which his advice might be desired.

For your further information Dr. Neal is the Acting Director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health, of which Dr. Thompson is the Director. Apparently the activities of the various divisions of the Institute of Health are very closely coordinated at the present time, and although there is considerable division of labor, there are regular conferences between the Director, the Division Directors and the Surgeon General. I think, therefore, there is no likelihood of any ambiguity or indefiniteness in any decision which might be arrived at by any person or group within this organization.

With kindest personal regards,

I am

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.