

March 28, 1947

Dr. P. M. Andre,
Supervisor, Medical Section,
Industrial Commission of Ohio,
Columbus 15, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Andre:

I am sending you herewith a memorandum concerning a situation in the local plant of the Magnus Metal Division of National Lead Company, which is of more than casual interest. The memorandum, as you will note, prepared by my associate, Dr. Henry Ryder, with my assistance and full approval, is rather critical of the State Health authorities and of the Ohio Industrial Commission. It is only proper, therefore, that this memorandum, which has also been sent to the local management of the plant in question, should be directed to your attention. We do not presume to know how rapidly the machinery of the Ohio Industrial Commission ought to work, but it does seem a bit strange to us that no one of these men has been compensated for his occupational illness, when the claim of at least one has been filed since December. It so happens that this man has a wife and nine children, and is, as yet, unable to return to his work. This, therefore, is a rather serious matter.

For obvious reasons we are seriously concerned about the safety of other workmen in this plant, and although we do not presume to know what is being done, we do consider that the visits of State Inspectors, both local and from Columbus, have been of no help in this direction. Our word concerning the comments of local inspectors has been obtained at second hand, and therefore we may not take it too seriously. However, we are aware of the statement made by Dr. Obetz following his visit, and it was far from being helpful, to put the matter kindly. I have had an exchange of correspondence with Dr. Obetz on the matter, and I do not care to push it any farther except to make the obvious comment that this type of performance reflects no credit upon the activities of the State. Inasmuch as we have cooperated with the Ohio Industrial Commission for a good many years, I feel that it is only proper that you should be informed of our feelings in a matter of this type.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

Enc. 4F 000000