

October 29, 1959

Mr. Manfred Dowditch
Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association
60 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Manfred:

Since you have been needling me (properly enough, yet gently) for a response to the request for a program of research along the lines of our some time talk in New York, I direct this letter to you with a copy to Mr. Rautke, rather than the other way around.

I regret that I was unable to give you a satisfactory answer on this subject at a much earlier date. The prospect of carrying out a suitable program intrigued me greatly, and I wished very much to embark upon it. My difficulty, however, as I warned you at the time of our pleasant luncheon and interview, was an uncertainty as to the availability of space and facilities for the work. I did not want to make a proposal which we could not carry out, and yet I didn't want to reject the opportunity if it could be grasped. The issue is now clear, and it has turned out as I feared it would. It is now evident that we cannot attempt to work on a variety of compounds of lead in a comparative manner. This will have to be postponed for at least two years. The reason lies in the stern necessity of our working as hard, and as rapidly as possible, on the establishment of a satisfactory standard for particulate lead in readily absorbable form in urban air generally. Legislation is imminent (I returned shortly from a conference with California officials) on this matter, and we shall have to use our entire facility (two respiratory chambers and necessary equipment) for at least two years, in establishing, quantitatively, the relationship between the industrial standard, as it relates to 40 hours per week, and the community standard, which has to be based on constant (or nearly constant) respiratory exposure. Once we are able to obtain a formula by which we can calculate the relationship between dosage and time, in terms of the respiratory absorption of respirable lead in the atmosphere, we can turn to other aspects of the problem. We are obligated, however, to get this job done with all speed.

We are about to begin the construction of an addition to the Laboratory at an estimated cost of about 1.5 million dollars. It will take 18 to 24 months from now (if we can start promptly) to complete this addition. I can then obtain some additional space for one or more respiratory chambers. At present no such space is available, and I cannot use one of our two chambers for your problem. If the work in which you are interested can wait, we shall

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Incidentally, if the Lead Industries Association were to consider it feasible and desirable to have some share in the provision of our new facilities, its interest would be welcome. As you are aware, I believe, our present house and its tools were supplied in toto by gifts of capital sums to the University. Some 24 industrial organizations (including such associations of industry as the American Petroleum Institute)

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I returned Saturday from Los Alamos where the Council on Industrial Health spent some pleasant and profitable hours with Tom Shipman and his associates. Never having been there, and not having met Tom's wife, I had a double pleasure. I'll be ready to go again.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schaefer, M. D.

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cc: Mr. Schaefer, M. D.