

September 5, 1968

Mr. F. A. McCoy
Ethyl International
P.O. Box #341
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Frank:

I am sorry that my parenthetic remark about the Dordrecht incident has given you any reason for concern. It was not my intention to be critical in this matter, and indeed I knew because of my conversation with Bill Rusher that certain steps had been taken to head off a recurrence of this incident or anything similar. What I had in mind were certain facts which, as it seemed to me, stood in the way of effective prevention. One important aspect of the matter is the generally poor quality of the men who are available to command such ships. Drunkenness is, I believe, only one of the hurdles to be overcome. The other feature, probably irreparable, is that Ethyl's own personnel are not directly and inevitably responsible for the operations on shipboard. Wherever this situation has existed in the past, we have been at a disadvantage, and this will always be a problem in transportation. In any case, I want you and the others in my group of advisors, to know that I have the greatest respect for your capabilities and for your responsible application of your capabilities to the task presented.

Incidentally, I am ready now to consider your views and those of the other men on any of the matters dealt with in the report and on any other pertinent matters dealt with in the report and on any other pertinent matters that may have escaped my notice. I asked each of the others to set down their views, whether critical or supplementary, so that I might follow up the discussion of various matters with such recommendations as might be indicated. I'll be glad to hear from you shortly if you wish to give me any further information or advice. I am grateful for that which you have given in your recent letter, including your reference to incorrect or incomplete statements. I'm afraid that such mistakes are inevitable in writing extensively about complex situations.

I am interested in knowing what you learned about the Greek plant on your last visit. I hope that all is well and that the previously increasing levels of lead in the urine of the workmen, generally, have stabilized, as I expected them to do.

As to the condition to which I referred in the lead recovery area, I think you realize, as I do, that one's observations may, by chance alone, have been made at an unfortunate and uncharacteristic time. I do not attribute any great significance to such a chance observation. I merely noted it, for what it was worth to you and others concerned.

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Again my thanks for your letter and for the satisfaction of working with you and the other men, in the common cause.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

RAK:wp

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