

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

July 16, 1956

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
Director, Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

I begin to wish that I had never heard of Dr. William U. Giessel of Houston, Texas.

You will recall my letter of June 27th to Jim Sterner, with copies to you, Harriet Hardy, Red Johnstone and Tom Shipman.

Red's reaction to this was made known with the copy of my letter to him of July 6th which went to you all. Harriet's was somewhat similar, winding up with "I look forward to seeing how Jim and Bob Kehoe handle this situation."

As of last Friday, to the best of my knowledge, neither of these estimable gentlemen had handled it at all, nor, for that matter, had the no less respected lad on the Los Alamos hilltop. Then, just as I was concluding that my efforts to promote decent lead hygiene down Texas way were doomed to frustration, along came a signed carbon copy of the letter from Dr. Giessel to the Houston Battery Sales Company of which a further copy is herewith.

Understand, please, (1) that it came with no covering letter or word of explanation from Dr. Giessel to me, and (2) that the company in question is no member of our Association or in any way known to us. It is therefore anyone's guess why it was sent to me, and it would appear that I am quite free to do as I think best with it. I could of course ignore it, but, if honestly and intelligently administered preventive industrial medicine is any of my affair, I don't think that I should.

So I called up Harriet and read enough of it to her to give her the gist, and she didn't think that I should either. Her suggestion was that I send copies of the letter to you and to Jim (whom Giessel would seemingly like to have us regard as a sort of sponsor), pointing out that here we have the perfect example of why you wrote that report that appeared in the January 22, 1955 J.A.M.A.

While I am at it, I am sending copies to Harriet, Red and Tom also, and I hope that between you, you will come up with some suggestion whereby this man can be

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

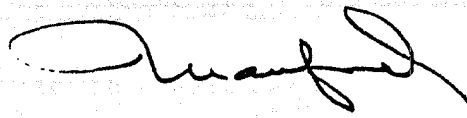
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July 16, 1956

set straight. If none of you want to write him, I am quite willing to do so myself, but, as a layman, I want medical backing for what I say.

And to this I might add that I don't need an M.D. degree to know that his advice to feed Mr. Miller white tablets and vitamin capsules, with no suggestion that he be removed from lead exposure pending possible future installation of protective dust control, is just about the nadir in industrial practice. In my book, it stinks.

Sincerely,



MB:GW

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Hardy
Dr. Johnstone
Dr. Shipman
Dr. Sterner

PS: This letter was drafted on Friday. This morning (Monday), came an excellent letter from Tom, with a no less admirable enclosure from Dr. Foreman. There is no indication as to whether copies went to any of you. If not, and you wish them, I am sure that our two Los Alamos friends would approve my sending them to you.

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LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

July 6, 1956

AIR MAIL

Rutherford T. Johnstone, M. D.
Brockman Building
520 West Seventh Street
Los Angeles 14, California

Dear Red:

Thank you for your letter of July 3rd, of which I shall take the liberty of sending copies to those named below. I am glad you got around to writing before blowing yourself to pieces on the day following.

Far be it for me to insist, so by all means, please do desist.

I talked by telephone today with Harriet, who said that a letter is in the mail to me and that she feels rather as you do about writing to the Texan. No word as yet from Jim, Bob or Tom.

What I might do, if no one takes up the cudgels and if no one objects, is to write Giessel myself, quoting from what has been written to me, but with no indication of the authorship of the quotations. Before doing anything of this sort, I would most certainly submit to all concerned a draft of what I proposed to write.

I fully realized that I was wishing a difficult job on several of my good friends, and I quite understand how you feel about it.

What I don't understand is who in hell wants to see you in Boulder. But if you don't have a grand time with Tom, Frances and such of their brood as are in residence at the Jail House, I miss my guess.

Sincerely,



MB:GW

cc: Dr. Hardy
Dr. Kahoe
Dr. Shipman
Dr. Sterner

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