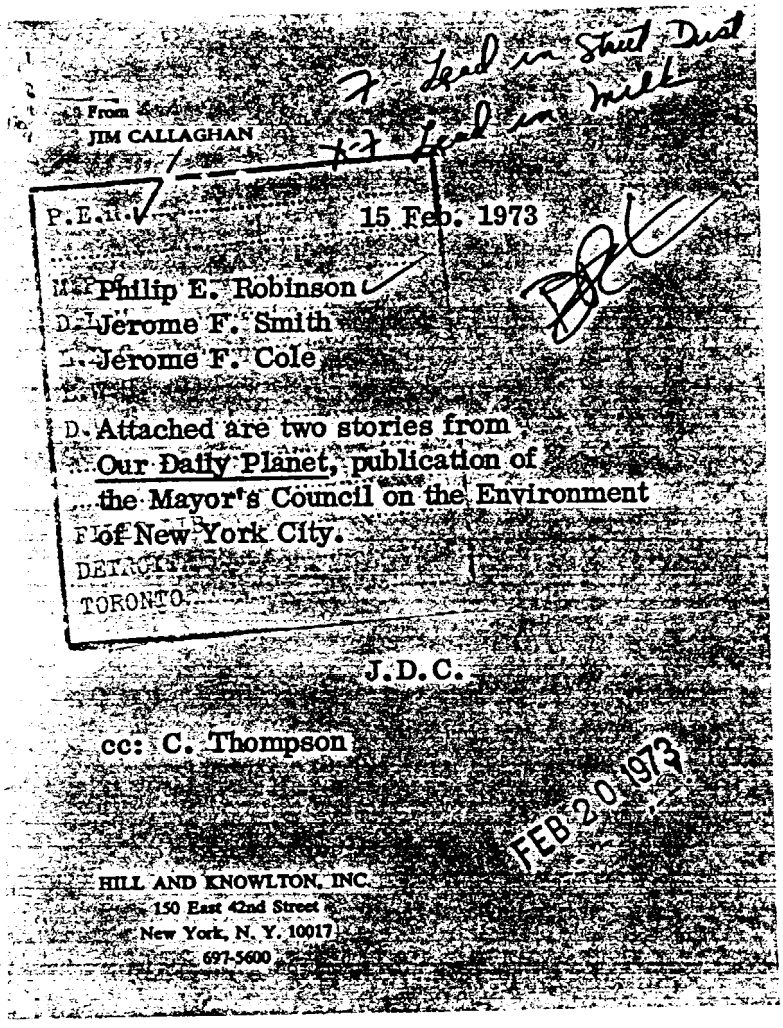

From JIM CALLAGHAN

7 lead in Street Dust
7 lead in milk

P.E.R.V. 15 Feb. 1973

M. Philip E. Robinson
D. Jerome F. Smith
L. Jerome F. Cole
E.V.

D. Attached are two stories from Our Daily Planet, publication of the Mayor's Council on the Environment of New York City.

DETROIT
TORONTO

J.D.C.

cc: C. Thompson

FEB 20 1973

HILL AND KNOWLTON, INC.
150 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017
697-5600

JERRY Cole
Any rebuttal on this? PER

Our Daily Planet

NYC's Only Environmental Newspaper

A Monthly Publication of the Council on the Environment of New York City Vol. II, No. 8 February 1973

Lead Levels Critical

By MARTY WOLFAND

Concentrations of lead in the dust on New York City streets have reached a critical level, according to a study prepared by the Public Interest Campaign, a Washington-based consumer group. The study reports that a child in New York City, in his normal routine, can ingest enough lead (as little as one twenty-fourth of a teaspoon a day over a period of six months) to cause damage to his central nervous system.

The U.S. Public Health Service estimates that in 1973 400,000 American children will have high concentrations of lead in their blood. About 16,000 of these children will require treatment; another 200 children will die from lead poisoning. 800 children will be so severely injured as to require permanent care, while 3,200 children will suffer moderate to severe brain damage and will require years of special treatment.

Lead poisoning in children frequently results from eating chips of leaded paints used in older housing. Recent evidence points increasingly to airborne lead or lead in dust or dirt as an important source of lead, particularly in urban areas. Lead in gasoline contributes about 90-98 percent of all lead in the air. This airborne lead also settles, contaminating dirt and dust.

According to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report released last September, "Combined ingesting of lead-based paint and lead in dirt and dust is thus probably responsible for the large numbers of urban children found to have abnormally elevated blood levels (of lead)."

Milk: A New Source

Another previously unsuspected source of lead was discovered by a New Yorker, Dr. Steven Lamm of the Bronx Municipal Hospital. Dr. Lamm has found that virtually all brands of evaporated milk, which is widely used in infant formulas, contain lead levels which could be toxic to young children.

Dr. Lamm's research determined that one source of lead in canned milk is the solder and flux used in sealing the seams in canning. Can companies are already reported to be taking steps to devise a safer process for sealing seams.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently announced that, effective January 1, 1973, lead content in evaporated milk can be no greater than 0.5 parts per million (ppm).

The FDA standard has already come under attack by Dr. Lamm and also by New York City's Assistant Health Commissioner, Dr. Vincent Guinee. Both doctors maintain that the FDA should cut the lead ceiling by at least one-half. They argue that lead in milk most affects low-income families who use canned milk extensively for infant formulas because it is economical and slow to spoil. Children of low-income families are also more often exposed to lead in paint and airborne lead from heavy auto traffic exhaust. Therefore, they conclude, stricter regulations for lead in milk must be

(Continued on page 5)

Lead Debate

(Continued from page 1)

established to protect such children fror this new source of lead.

Lead Levels Disputed

EPA is also aware of the danger of lea in the environment. In a recent report EPA stresses that because of the hig concentrations of lead found in the bloo of adults, as well as in children and th newborn, "air lead levels should prudentl be reduced to the fullest extent possible.

EPA first considered that a safe cor centration of lead in air should be no mor than two micrograms of lead per cubi meter of air, which was to be attained b reducing the amount of lead in gasoline b 60-65 percent.

According to an EPA report date April 11, 1972, "... lead levels exceedin two micrograms per cubic meter. . . ar associated with a sufficient risk of advers physiological effect to constitute e dangerment of public health."

A later unpublished preliminary repor dated September 22, 1972, recommende that "EPA's previous lead in gasolin regulation calling for a 60-65 percent lea reduction to achieve two (microgram) a lead goal must be considered inadequat to protect the public. This decision based largely upon a thorough r evaluation of all available date, includir recently completed studies."

The Final Decision

The final lead standards decision w rest with William Ruckelshau Administrator of EPA. The forthcomir decision is already in dispute.

One industrial consultant, Dr. Leona Goldwater of Duke University, said in a article written for **Industrial Medicin** "An ambient air standard for lead of fo micrograms per cubic meter of air higher would have fewer scientific o jections than a standard of tv micrograms per cubic meter."

At the same time, a spokesman for t Natural Resources Defense Council, environmental law firm, said that as so as the new standards are published, t Council will decide whether or not to ta legal action.

Tentatively, EPA proposes th beginning January 1, 1974 the le content of all grades of gasoline gradually reduced so that by January 1977 60-65 percent of the present le content would be eliminated. Furth after July 1, 1974, retailers would have offer for sale gasoline rated at 91 octa that would be virtually lead-free.

Lead In Milk: A New Danger

Called an "eye-opener" by the man who initiated it, a recently-completed study has called public attention to a new environmental hazard: high levels of lead in milk.

In October 1971, the Conneticut State Health Department received a complaint from a consumer who had opened a can of evaporated milk which seemed to have spoiled on the shelf. When the Health Department analyzed the milk for concentrations of bacteria, black chips were found floating in the liquid. The analysis determinated that the milk contained a high concentration of lead. Dr. Steven Lamm was assigned to investigate the matter further.

The resulting study found disturbing concentrations of lead in milk, ranging from 0.06 parts of lead per million parts of milk (ppm) to 2.3 ppm before dilution.

Dr. Lamm found that of all types of milk evaporated skim milk consistently has the highest lead levels. Because of low cost and slow rate of spoilage, evaporated skim milk is widely used for infant feeding. An infant who consumes an average 25-35 ounces of evaporated milk each day will ingest more than 300 micrograms (mg) of lead daily. Three hundred mg of lead is now generally considered the maximum daily permissible intake for children over two years old.

Dr. Lamm theorizes that infant exposure to lead may increase the danger to health at a later time. "The body may

(Continued on page 7)

New York Study Concludes

Lead In Milk A Danger

(Continued from page 3)

have storage places for the lead which accumulates there and which cannot be excreted," Dr. Lamm said. "When an infant takes in a large amount of lead through milk, these storage places may get filled up early in life by the lead the infant cannot excrete, so that later in life, when challenged with more lead, these children may be unable to prevent more lead and smaller doses of lead (from paint chips, street dust, etc.) from being toxic to them."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently published standards for lead levels in milk. The regulations require that levels not exceed 0.05 ppm.

These findings affect the urban poor the most. This segment of the population, according to Dr. Lamm, is "most likely to be feeding infants on canned milks which contain high lead levels. Likewise, it is these same children who live in areas such that later they are at highest risk of getting lead poisoning from leaded paint chips." Other portions of the public which use non-fat dry milk, whole milk, or human breast milk for feedings, are relatively safe. These kinds of milk, according to Dr. Lamm's study, contain only nominal levels of lead.

The study cites four possible sources for lead contamination in evaporated milks:

- Vented cans are filled through a hole in the bottom, which is later capped with a soldered plug that is 80 percent lead. Venting is us extensively as an inexpens way to can milk.
- Seams on some cans crimped; on others they soldered. The solder and f used on seams has a high l content.
- Non-fat dry milk, which also used frequently in inf formula, is dried by air. If the is not filtered, airborne lead n sift into the milk.
- Piping may also be a sou of lead. Some pipes throu which the milk travels to cann stations are in part made of le which may contaminate the n as it passes.

Dr. Steven Lamm

Milk manufacturers h announced steps to correct l contamination from the sol and flux used in making seams.

Dr. Lamm's finding w delivered to the American Pu Health Association in a pa "Lead Content of Milks Fed Infants" at Atlantic C November 13 of last year.

Dr. Lamm and Dr. John Ro are presently pursuing furt studies on this subject Montefiore Hospital in Bronx.