

July 1, 1954

Mr. E. L. Shea, President
Ethyl Corporation
100 Park Avenue Building
New York City 17

Dear Mr. Shea:

I am setting down the substance of our telephone conversation of this morning with some additional background information for your convenience and for such later reference as may be mutually useful.

Two matters of some consequence came out of my direct interview, in the company of Mr. Cholak of the technical staff of the Kettering Laboratory, on June 24, with Messrs. Hitchcock, Rogers and Faith (and a physicist, whose name slips me), of the Southern California Air Pollution Foundation.

(a) A series of private panel discussions are being arranged by S. C. A. P. F. in Los Angeles for August 19 and 20, 1954, in which representatives of the petroleum and automotive industry, and certain other industries concerned, including Ethyl Corporation and du Pont, have been invited to participate. Mr. Sabina of du Pont, among others, has accepted. The purpose of the discussions is to assemble the available and pertinent information on the composition of the exhaust gas of automobiles, trucks and buses (gasoline and diesel engines) under a variety of conditions of operation and use of various fuels (influence of additives, etc.), so as to visualize the status of the problem of air pollution in these relationships, and to define the character and scope of further investigation.

The participation of personnel from the Kettering Laboratory and from Ethyl Corporation is greatly desired by Mr. Hitchcock et al. I shall not be in the U. S. A. at that time (I plan to be en route to an International Congress of Industrial Medicine in Naples, Italy), but have agreed that Mr. Cholak should attend and present our data on the investigation of the composition of the atmosphere of several American cities. I concluded that Ethyl should be represented adequately, and have since so advised Mr. Macauley, since I believe and so expressed my purely personal opinion to Hitchcock et al. that the further necessary investigation of various aspects of the matter should be carried out by the technical personnel of the industries involved, because of their superior knowledge, experience and facilities.

KE 0004364

Mr. E. L. Shea - (2) - July 1, 1954

(I am fully convinced that the automobile industry will be compelled, for its own guidance, good-will and economic security, to obtain a comprehensive knowledge of where it is now and where it is going in this matter, just as I have believed and advised that Ethyl Corporation must have a similar awareness of its own situation in this relationship. I am prepared to exert any influence I can in that direction, so long as my activities are not incompatible with my relationships to Ethyl Corporation and with the public interest as I see it. Therefore, I should be glad to discuss the matter with representatives of the automobile manufacturers, particularly those of General Motors, at an appropriate time, if they so desire. There are some physiological aspects of the problem that deserve study, and these should be integrated with extensive technologic investigation.)

(b) In an earlier discussion between Mr. Cholak and Mr. Rogers in Cincinnati, and in my telephone conversation with Mr. Hitchcock, later, the Kettering Laboratory was urged to put in a proposal for an investigation of the composition of the atmosphere in Los Angeles, with special reference to the suspended solids, including lead compounds. The matter was left undecided pending full discussion in Los Angeles, there being matters both of policy and procedure to be dealt with on behalf of both Ethyl Corporation and the Kettering Laboratory. Our discussion resulted in clearing away all of the obstacles which appeared to exist, and Mr. Cholak and I later decided to submit a proposal, subject to Ethyl's approval of our inclusion of the lead problem in the investigation, for an analytical study of the atmosphere of Los Angeles during the period of 100 days, beginning on August 15, or as soon thereafter as the necessary equipment can be assembled. (This is the anticipated period of heaviest smog.) The cost of this investigation is to be borne by the Foundation, in the amount of \$30,500.00, if the proposal is accepted in its present form. (Since the general character of the work was agreed upon substantially by Mr. Cholak and Mr. Rogers, therefore acceptance is to be expected promptly.) The portion of this proposal which involves atmospheric lead will cost \$10,000.00. This is an item of expense which, otherwise, would be borne directly by Ethyl Corporation (cf. my letter and memorandum of January 23-25 to Earl Bartholomew in which I estimated the cost of an initial (i. e. preliminary) analytical survey as \$3,000.00 in 1954, making no guess as to the subsequent cost). It is possible, and I believe it likely, that we can reduce the scope and cost of our anticipated investigation in the Los Angeles area, and if the results obtained in this proposed survey turn out as I expect them to do, we can go easy on the atmospheric side of the problem, and turn our attention, in a leisurely manner and at a comparatively low rate of expenditure, to the investigation of carefully selected groups of the most severely exposed people in the Los Angeles area. In any case the pressure should be relieved in Los Angeles, and Ethyl Corporation will profit by a considerable present, and perhaps ultimate, reduction in its expense for this purpose.

It is anticipated that the proposed survey can be facilitated greatly by some technical help from the San Bernardino Laboratory. When I was in San Bernardino

KE 0004365

Mr. E. L. Shea - (3) - July 1, 1954

in March I raised the question, in a preliminary way, of their willingness, with the consent of Detroit, to give us some technical help so as to avoid undue difficulties on the part of our staff in the conduct of an investigation in Los Angeles. They expressed every willingness to do so. Having secured your approval, in principle, to the participation of the San Bernardino group, I shall expect to take it up with the proper people in the Detroit Laboratories when I visit them on or about July 12, and to follow their wishes from there on. It is my feeling that we can best entrust the required amount of supervision of our sampling program in Los Angeles to Ethyl Corporation personnel, and I believe that such assistance rendered to us, and through us to the S.C.A.P.F., will be a beneficial expression of cooperation on the part of Ethyl Corporation in the enterprise in which S.C.A.P.F. is engaged. I made point of this in my conversation with Mr. Hitchcock and his associates, and referred to it in the proposal and the letter which accompanied the proposal.

There remains only one other facet of this matter. I have thought that the extent of Ethyl's obligation to contribute to the Southern California Air Pollution Foundation should depend upon its specific concern in the situation in Los Angeles. Otherwise its action should be regarded merely as a gesture of interest in the welfare of its customers there. Therefore, before I was prepared to make any recommendation as to the size of the contribution, I waited until I could talk with Mr. Hitchcock and find out how matters stood. I am satisfied now that this Laboratory, as well as Ethyl Corporation, can work with the Foundation, and that Ethyl will obtain a satisfactory return, both tangibly and in good-will, for a reasonable investment in the activities of the Foundation. I should think it could well afford to contribute the sum which it would be prepared to expend at this time in the investigation of its own problem in Los Angeles. I would have no hesitation in recommending that Ethyl Corporation spend \$10,000.00 to get the information which will be obtained on lead in the Los Angeles atmosphere by the procedure which we have worked out with the representatives of the Foundation and described to them as a definite proposal. No matter how this is done or by whom, the information is needed, and in any case this sum, plus the additional expense represented in the assistance of San Bernardino personnel, would have to be spent to obtain it. There is the additional advantage in making the contribution at this time, that it will contribute to the atmosphere of good-will which now prevails. It will, I believe, if made at once, before a contract is entered into with this University, be regarded as an act of generosity and good faith.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

KE 0004366