

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

March 16, 1956

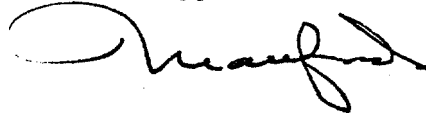
Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
Director, Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

I have recently dug from my files the letter from
Bill Fredrick from which excerpts are herewith.

I thought you might like to have these data in
connection with the Los Angeles matter.

Sincerely,



MB:GW

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Costello

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Excerpts from letter dated April 22, 1955
From: Dr. William G. Fredrick, Sc.D.
To: Manfred Bowditch

We have made a considerable number of determinations as to atmospheric lead content of the City of Detroit in past times but have not done so recently because the lead level stays consistently low. As far as general atmospheric lead samples are concerned, in those examined in the year 1951 maximum lead concentration was 13 micrograms per cubic meter and median was 0.6 micrograms. These samples were collected over the period from May 17 through June 17 in 1952. Samples collected over the period, August 7 to September 19 showed a maximum value of 1.6 microgram per cubic meter and a median value of 0.4 micrograms. The average level of atmospheric lead in the general air is consistently below 1 microgram per cubic meter.

We have done certain air sampling in the neighborhood of a small lead smelter over a period of approximately 30 days and the lead concentration ranged from 0.49 to 12.5 microgram per cubic meter. Samples taken in the neighborhood of a brass foundry utilizing a cupola for melting high lead alloy showed values of 4 to 9 microgram per cubic meter.

Shortly after the report to which you make reference appeared, and which I believe came to our attention, in Time magazine, we took a 24 hour sample of air about 10 feet above ground in one of our most heavily trafficked downtown streets. The lead content of this atmosphere was less than 4 microgram per cubic meter. I believe that you can obtain some detailed information concerning the news report which was obviously a misunderstanding from Mr. Leslie Chambers, Robert Taft Laboratories, U.S. Public Health Service, Cincinnati, Ohio

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