

May 15, 1936

Mr. T. R. A. Bevan
Ethyl Export Corporation
Thames House, Millbank
London, S. W. 1
England

Dear Mr. Bevan:

Things have been pretty thick in my office for the past several weeks and it has been a question as to what would be neglected, and with other people near at hand to make demands on my time, you and a number of other people who have had to get in touch with my by correspondence, have been left in the cold, I am afraid. On the other hand I realized on receipt of Mr. Banks' letter that you would be back in the office before he received a reply from me, and since I discussed this matter with you, I felt you would be in a position to make the necessary reply. Just for safety sake I repeat the expression of my point of view on the problem at issue.

As a matter of fact it would be almost, if not quite impossible to be poisoned by lead through the ingestion of gasoline containing lead. Gasoline itself is so toxic a material and is so irritating to the intestinal tract that a sufficient amount to carry poisonous amounts of lead could not be ingested without very acute gastro-intestinal symptoms. It is, therefore, quite apparent that if the cans are cleaned out well enough to dispense with the bad taste and the irritating effects of gasoline, there can be no significant danger from the point of view of lead.

If the cans had been used over and over for gasoline without cleaning, and if there were large quantities of rust in which small quantities of decomposition products of tetraethyl lead were deposited, the situation would be altered somewhat. Even here, however, the danger of lead poisoning would not be great since it is highly improbable that any such badly damaged can would be used for the transportation of water or liquid food materials.

I hope to see Banks when he comes over and I was awfully sorry not to have seen you again when I was East at the time of Mittnacht's death. Unfortunately I had to get in and out of town within the one day and so could

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Mr. Bevan

not remain to see you.

I sincerely hope your young lady
has recovered by this time and that you will not need
to postpone your wedding for long. I hope to see you
both at an early date.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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