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July 7, 1954

Dr. L. B. Hitchcock
President and Managing Director
Southern California Air Pollution Foundation
704 South Spring Street
Los Angeles 14, California

Dear Doctor Hitchcock:

Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of July 2. I should like you to feel sure that I and my associates will be as helpful as we can to your group. We regard air pollution and water pollution with genuine concern as major problems of modern urban life, which will continue to grow in significance. Los Angeles is of prime interest in connection with air pollution, since the peculiar conditions there have resulted in its having exceeded the limits of its ability to rid itself, by natural means, of its discharge of wastes into the atmosphere. Yet Los Angeles continues to grow and to increase its own environmental problem, which, therefore, must be solved by technical means. The same general problem, as well as the water pollution problem, exists in many other of the industrial cities of the world, and in a few of these the threshold of trouble of one kind or another has been nearly reached, actually reached or exceeded. The general problem has many facets, of which the hygienic group of considerations is only one, and, in my opinion, not now the most important. But it will become more and more important as time goes on, and it may well be the crucial one from the point of view of compulsory action. We and many other groups will be investigating these matters for a long time to come, and while this is no reason for complacency, it is never-the-less reason for proceeding carefully, economically, and with the main objectives in view. The physicist and chemist have the problems of identification and measurement to work out; the meteorologist and the geographer have the problems of natural movement and removal of waste materials to solve in a comprehensive manner; the physiologist and physician have to determine the limits of safety of the thousands of waste materials, individually and collectively, not only those of the present but of the future as well, so as to set the specifications for safe and comfortable atmospheric environment; and the engineer must be capable of converting the physiologist's specifications into actualities, through proper design of operating equipment of many kinds - transport, manufacturing, etc. This is how it will be from now on, and unless industry realizes this fully and prepared itself individually and collectively to deal with it, along with its other technological developments, we shall have trouble, waste and confusion with increasing frequency and intensity.

We, in this Laboratory, who have had some experience in matters relating

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to industrial health, and are set up to learn and to teach others, are prepared at considerable trouble and inconvenience to ourselves, to keep in touch with what is going on in the field. We expect to be at this for a long time to come. We are glad to see competent people come into the field, and we want to work with them so far as it is possible to do so. We have considered the opportunity which presents itself to make some observations in the Los Angeles area in this light, and therefore we have made a proposal to you.

In view of your comment on the assistance which might be given by Ethyl Corporation to the financing of this work, I think I should say that I have thought that it might be best if the project which we proposed to carry out were to be financed by the Foundation. However, it is my opinion, and I have so recommended, that Ethyl Corporation should make a substantial contribution of money to the Foundation. I have every reason to believe that this will be done. In addition, Mr. Cholak expects to obtain technical assistance from them in Los Angeles, so as to carry on the work without undue cost and inconvenience.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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