

MIAMI, FLORIDA
PAN-AMERICAN AIRWAYS

± 77



Reorder No. 912 $\frac{1}{8}$

PARK BRAND FOLDER
MEDIUM HEAVY WEIGHT

RE 0021172

N 24522

Mr. Harry Kaley
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Kaley:

No doubt you are aware of the situation presented by the formation of large lead deposits in gasoline supplied to Pan Am Airways by the Texas Company. The details of the matter are presented in letters from Mr. Rosser from Mr. Lewis, dated March 27th and April 3rd. I have in addition a brief memorandum supplied by Dr. Kitzmiller and giving the facts as to the situation in much the same fashion as they are lined in Mr. Rosser's letter to Mr. Lewis.

We do not anticipate any special difficulties among the personnel employed in the repair of drums in Miami, but we will keep in touch with this matter and do whatever may be required. It seems, however, that the safety has not necessarily been disposed of completely. I feel that there are certain matters which might be attended to for the prevention of any further accidents. Accordingly I thought it best to address the subject.

First there is the problem of Port Arthur where the gasoline was produced, and where the shipping records will presumably be available. I believe a thorough investigation should be made at Port Arthur that all information which can be obtained should be obtained. We should do our best to assist Pan Am in the tracing of this gasoline, to eliminate the field and to see that the drums which have been returned to Pan American as promptly as it is possible. There will also be the problem of cleaning the Port Arthur, and we should satisfy ourselves that the employees employed for this purpose are safe.

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have to be cleaned so as to give every possible and so as not to let this matter die until it is I should also consider it desirable for Roberts in America to know as much about this whole matter as possible, Therefore any information which can be to the location and cleaning of any tanks on the coast of South America, or elsewhere in South America be reported to me and forwarded by me to Roberts a recital of the whole story. Pan American is a very organization in South America and they could undoubtedly handle the matter with very little assistance from On the other hand certain things have a way of happening in South America, and it would be most unfortunate there were any difficulties over this problem which could be avoided through the supervisory efforts of Mr. Rosser has done a very good job in keeping in with this problem, and his contacts with Pan American officials in Miami have been very satisfactory. It be desirable for him to continue his efforts and in close touch with everything that happens, and to put out everything that can be learned. However I leave the matter in your hands but with the feeling that no deposit should be left unturned, since the handling of the deposits is an obviously dangerous matter.

Incidentally our analysis of the chamolite used for the filtration of gasoline at Anahuac showed the presence of 0.61 grams of deposits. These deposits contained 6.7 per cent of organic lead. A sample of gasoline containing deposits was filtered, yielding 5.38 grams of deposit which gave up .95 per cent of organic lead on steam distillation.

From such information as we have obtained, it seems quite certain that these deposits are not the result of the presence of lecithin, and it is reasonably certain that they did not result from the presence of alkylate in the gasoline. Therefore it seems that some unusual inhibitor was used which results in the precipitation of lead. This may be a dark secret carefully guarded by the Texas Company but, on the other hand, it seems to me a very important matter and, I would suggest the advisability of some discussion of this matter with the executives in New York with the idea of establishing the facts, if possible, chiefly for the purpose of preventing further difficulties of this same character.

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instance, and I certainly think we should attempt to learn the truth of the matter through every possible avenue.

I will keep you in touch with any further developments at this end, and if there is anything further which I can do, do not hesitate to call upon me. I shall await further information before transmitting this story to Lester Roberts.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kennedy

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