

July 2, 1940

Mr. C. Taylor
~~Mr. Harry Kalay~~
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Encl
Dear Harry:

Your letter of June 27th concerning the distribution of rules for the use of jobbers and the supplying of warning booklets for purchasers of leaded gasoline raises questions to which I have given some thought.

First as to the Rules and Regulations for the distribution of Ethyl and Q gasoline. In my opinion every effort should be made to continue the use of these regulations. I have no doubt that in some instances they will be ignored, but I believe they should be supplied and I think that the refinery customers of the Corporation are entirely right in their feeling that these should be supplied for distribution by them to their jobber customers. Whether these should be distributed in the form in which they now appear is another matter. It may be that they will have to be modified, and yet as I look at the copies of these which you have sent me, they seem to me to be entirely adequate.

As to the booklets to be supplied to customers, I should regard these as wholly unnecessary, and as having demonstrated their uselessness by previous attempts on the part of gasoline distributors to make use of them. It might be wise if I were to discuss this and also my point of view concerning it with the proper representatives of the Public Health Service, and to obtain a release, if possible, in terms of previous experience, whereby this paragraph will be eliminated from the original regulations. Looking at this matter sensibly, I think it is fair to say that the issuance of warnings to the public users of leaded gasoline concerning hazards which are now believed non-existent and which have failed to develop after fifteen years of experience, is absurd. The only warning which could be issued which would have any validity at all would be to advise such purchasers not to use the gasoline in stoves, lamps and blow-torches, and anything else which

no reason in the world for believing that leaded gasoline may not be used safely for any purpose for which ordinary gasoline is used, and therefore all we should be doing is to advise people generally against the careless use of gasoline of any kind. This, as I conceive it, is not a proper function on the part of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and I think it should not assume this role. It would not be believed by most people and actually it has never been believed in court that the Corporation has had an honest motive in providing such leaflets. Also it is quite apparent that the Federal authorities have suspected some trickery. For all of these reasons, I believe that the distribution of any such booklet to the purchasers of leaded gasoline is unnecessary and unwise.

As I indicated above, I can talk with the Public Health Service people about this matter before any definite decision is reached, and I suggest, therefore, that no action be taken unless some definite expression of their attitude should make it desirable.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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