

March 28, 1947

Dr. Roger Heering,
Director of Health,
State of Ohio Department of Health,
Columbus 15, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Heering:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a memorandum which my associate, Dr. Henry Ryder, prepared from the information which we have accumulated on a group of employees of the Magnus Metal Division of the National Lead Company plant at 1029 West Seventh Street, Cincinnati. Dr. Ryder has been working very vigorously and at all hours in taking care of these men and in getting together the information, so far as it can be obtained from the men themselves, concerning the conditions under which they are working. The clinical information and the analytical data tell the story rather dramatically, and it is quite apparent that these men have been exposed to a rather serious lead hazard. Dr. Ryder, and I as well, have been very much distressed by the difficulties of these men, and by the fact that not even the earliest among them has been compensated for his disability. We are not prepared to say from any direct knowledge, what steps are being taken to control the lead hazard of the men who continue to work in this plant, nor have we been able to do anything, that might be regarded as effective in bringing the facts at our disposal to the plant management and to give any assistance in dealing with the serious problem with which they are presented. Obviously the plant management, through its parent organization, is entitled to handle its affairs in its own way, and we cannot force our assistance or our advice upon them. I know that it takes time to deal with problems of this sort, and I also have reason to believe that the local management has neither experience in these matters, nor the authority to do what might otherwise be done. However, I do feel that it is time that something is being accomplished, and since we have been, so-to-speak, holding the bag without being able to accomplish anything, I am bringing this matter to your attention. I am also sending a copy of this memorandum to Dr. Mancuso and to Dr. Andre of the Industrial Commission.

If there is anything further that I can do in this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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