



Lead Industries Association, Inc.

292 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 678-8080

July 15, 1971

LEAD IN THE
SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

To: Members of Lead Industries Association, Inc.:

The attached transcripts of radio programs by Dean Lewis of WHE, New York will be of interest. They represent an affirmative posture in relation to lead in the environment that is genuinely encouraging. We hope to stimulate more editorials of this nature, a straw in the wind of what we would like to accomplish on a broad scale. .

Sincerely yours,

David M. Borcina
Secretary, Treasurer

DMB:so
Att:

July 15, 1971

COPY

WHM STORER RADIO, INC.

DEAN LEWIS

June 15, 1971 7:05 P.M.

COMMENTARY

Panthers at the Zoo lick their furry coats; lead particles cling to their coats...therefore, those that have become ill must have been poisoned by the lead from industrial and automobile exhausts. That's the latest myth to be added to the fictions -- the out and out fabrications -- about the danger of lead in automobile gasoline, indeed, a million light years away from the truth. We're still waiting on the results of a test in New York City to determine how and in what way the lead in auto emissions might possibly be harmful to human or animal health. However, similar tests have already been reported out of three other major American Cities, and not one of them shows that gasoline lead is any less safe now than when it was first introduced fifty years ago.

The lead in engine exhausts is inorganic. As such, it is in no way -- no way -- even slightly harmful to human beings. If a man of seventy-five had breathed gasoline exhausts all his life, there might build up enough lead in his system to amount to about the size of A B-B. But in most all cases, the body throws off this specific kind of lead before it has a chance to accumulate. Besides, there is far more organic lead (the kind which can harm your body) in vegetables and the exhausts from industrial wastes. Many of lead's critics are stomping around the country yelling, "We can't afford to wait to see what the ultimate consequences might be." Fifty years without one single case of lead poisoning from auto exhausts and politicians and self-seekers have pounced on leaded gasoline as being the major culprit in all lead poisoning cases. Not one shred of evidence of any kind.

I made that same statement in similar context on June fourth. A Mr. Darovec of Jamaica, Queens wrote, if I'm so well armed with the facts, he would find them comforting and would like to hear them.

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Good man, Mr. Darovec! Dr. Joseph Calandra, Professor of Pathology and Bio-chemistry at Northwestern University, states, "There is no sound medical nor scientific basis for the removal of lead from gasoline." Dr. Philip Handler, President of the National Academy of Sciences agrees; the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association agrees (these among many others).

On the other hand, there has yet to be a scientific study made of the new un-leaded gasolines which does not indict the substitutes which must be used in place of lead. These substitutes are consistently found to be harmful to the health and well-being of us all. Not one case of illness attributable to the lead in gasoline in fifty years. Further, consider that less than ten per cent of the pollution we've spewed into the air over New York has come from automobiles. Turn that around and it means that over ninety per cent of all man-made air pollution locally comes from homes, industrial plants, power facilities and other sources. Los Angeles has done a far better job than we have in cleaning up the air. The pollution over Los Angeles is a great deal less there. And they have more automobiles. Also consider that in many high traffic areas the amount of lead in the air is far below the amount of lead in the air in more open, less congested streets.

You'd have a far better case if you worked to ban the consumption of cow's milk because of the fat it contains...A far better case than you'd have in working to get the lead out of gasoline, for in that, there's no case at all.

This is Dean Lewis.

WHM COMMENTARY
June 25, 1971 7:05 A.M.

You are being lied to and cheated. Think for a moment: What would you do if your next door neighbor would yell "Fire" to get you out of the house long enough to steal money out of the family cookie jar? What would you do if he told you someone was beating one of your children out in the street, and you found out that was only a ruse to get you out of the house long enough for him to slap your kids around?

That is precisely the horrid scheme being used against you, your family, and your family's cookie jar by New York City Council, with Environmental Protector Kretchmer standing on the sidelines yelling, "Bravo! Bravo!" Having already been victimized by Council's endorsement of an exorbitant tax on leaded gasolines, their Committee

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on Environmental protection has gone ahead now to draw up a code which, if approved by the entire council, as is expected, would phase out leaded gasoline altogether by January, 1974.

Now, let's start off with the understanding that there is not one iota of scientific data which in any way, shape, or form even indicates that lead in auto exhausts has ever caused a slight health problem. The other gases and solids in exhaust, yes...but never lead. Given that, which is fact, consider that the Council Committee readily admits that, when it comes to dangerous gases, the city's facilities and vehicles are the very worst air polluters -- worse than Con Ed, private companies and all. And, while Council and Kretchmer blatantly misrepresent the facts of lead pollution from cars, the city itself has contributed to circumstances leading to the lead poisoning of children in the way most all such cases occur -- through the lead in paint which toddlers eat. Even the city's own hospitals are coated with toxic paint which the young patients eat, and there are substantiated cases of children brought in for lead poisoning actually becoming more seriously ill and dying from diseases contracted in the city's hospitals.

These cases of city-caused lead poisoning and other illnesses...these cases of city-caused poisonous air pollution are documented in the city's own records. Yet in fifty years of using lead in gasoline, there has yet to be even one case of lead poisoning resulting from auto exhausts. Still, Council pushes to kill leaded gasoline! Did you know that the additives needed to replace lead are harmful, which lead is not. Indeed, you have been lied to and cheated! Councilman Theodore Weiss is Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. You can phone him, telegram him, or write him, in care of City Hall. He'll receive a copy of my comments today.

Dean Lewis