

TO: Kettering Alumni

In the past there has been little recognition, outside a very limited group chiefly represented in the membership of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, of the benefits of application of scientific and technologic measurements and controls in the solution of health-related problems arising in industry and also in modern industrial society.

Dynamic changes in the consciousness of the public in environmental effects of technological advances began with Rachel Carson's Silent Spring and have now spread far beyond concern over insecticide pollution. Unfortunately, there has been no real effort to convey to the public the effectiveness with which literally thousands of health problems are solved and prevented in modern industry by sound management. Sound management in this area involves wise decision-making at that level of industrial relations responsible for employee health—the director of occupational health, i. e., a well qualified occupational physician, who should be in the best position to deal expediently with all such problems (including both those which do not require or lend themselves to measurement and effective control and must, therefore, be dealt with empirically and, conversely, those which can benefit from scientific management). In the latter case, the occupational physician can benefit from the assistance of the well qualified industrial hygienist, whose background and experience should permit him either to personally perform the measures and design the controls needed or to be able to advise how best to proceed. Obviously, Industrial Hygiene is a vital ingredient in constituting an effective Occupational Health capability and yet, there is widespread lack of public and professional awareness of the value of this important field to employee and public health conservation.

In view of the above, and at the suggestion of one of my former students who now heads the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America, Inc. (IHF), I am writing to advise you of my intention to act in two areas of importance:

(1) I am writing to President Nixon to advise him of my conviction of the importance of Industrial Hygiene to our national welfare and public health, and asking him to consider favorably recommendations of the Presidents of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, American Academy of Occupational Medicine and American Industrial Hygiene Association as well as IHF that the week of IHF's Annual Meeting be designated "National Industrial Hygiene Week"—October 12-18. A copy of my letter will be sent to Senators Everett M. Dirksen and Hugh Scott who have agreed to co-sponsor the Bill needed to recommend such action to the President. IHF has prepared a special Annual Meeting program (enclosed) designed to help structure an

extensive membership drive and also, through the public relations departments of its members, to develop such extensive coverage of all media that by the year's end, the majority of our citizens and all those in the health professions should be aware of their debt to Industrial Hygiene and share our confidence in the future capabilities of this dynamic field to help advance employee and public health to the maximum practical degree, reaching far beyond all minimum standard requirements of the law.

2. I am also writing to the President of the American Medical Association, with copy to the Council on Occupational Health, of which I was a member for many years, to call to attention the fact that the present Council has not a single member who considers himself an Industrial Hygienist and who belongs to the American Industrial Hygiene Association, recommending (1) that the present President of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, David W. Fassett, M.D., be appointed to the Council, and (2) that the Council, including Dr. Fassett, consider whether or not the incoming President, Dr. Gerald D. Dorman, should write a letter expressing the American Medical Association's endorsement of the importance of Industrial Hygiene to our nation's health and welfare.

This message is being sent to you as an alumnus of Kettering Laboratory to alert you of my intentions in this regard so that you may assist me in extending some degree of order into the rather confused situation which now exists in our field with regard to Industrial Hygiene, and which, unfortunately, is preventing our entire field of Occupational Health from moving ahead as rapidly as it should in today's rapidly changing climate.

Best wishes to each of you for an enjoyable summer with your families.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus
University of Cincinnati

Enclosure

cc: Robert T. P. deTreville, M.D.