

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

June 16, 1955

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D., Director
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

Again referring to the matter of that proposed Australian legislation, I think you may be interested to note the letter from Leonard Greenburg of which a copy is herewith.

It took the good Commissioner a little time to respond, but he certainly crashed through in good style when he got around to it.

Sincerely,



MB:MM

KE 0014919



C O P Y

The City of New York

DEPARTMENT OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

15 Park Row
New York 38, N. Y.

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

June 15, 1955

Dear Manfred:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 16th enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Brian Taylor, Secretary of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited, concerning the attitude of the Australian Federation of Organizations of the Blind with reference to the use of lead in paints.

As you know, for some seventeen years, I was Director of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Standards for the New York State Department of Labor and for the past fifteen years, I was and still am, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. In both of these activities, I have been deeply interested in the effects of lead on the human organism.

I am firmly of the belief that lead-containing paints should not be used for those articles of furniture with which infants and young children may come in contact, for there are many instances in which infants have chewed on painted articles and have become poisoned by the ingestion of lead. Over and above this, I see absolutely no reason and have no instances at hand to indicate that paints containing more than 5% of lead should be banned in any country.

I have never seen a case of blindness brought about by the use of lead-containing paints in an adult, and in fact, the incidence of lead poisoning of any kind from paint in this country, is becoming more and more of a rarity.

I would suggest that the Australian Federation of Organizations of the Blind attempt to find actual cases of blindness brought about by the use of lead-containing paints, and I would venture to predict that they will be unable to find such cases in their country, with the possible exception of some very rare instance, where other factors have played a leading role.

Precautions, of course, must be exercised in those establishments where lead paints may be permitted to dry and be converted over to dust. The use of wet sanding procedures in the sand papering of leaded surfaces should, of course, be enforced.

May I suggest that Mr. Brian Taylor bring this matter to the attention of the Australian Federation of Organizations of the Blind in an effort to have their legislation based on a more realistic and scientifically sound basis.

/s/ Leonard Greenburg, M. D.

Leonard Greenburg, M. D.
Commissioner

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