February 9, 1937

Dr. Florent Costes
41 Rue Cardinet
Paris - 8E
France

Dear Doctor Costes:

I read your letter of January 21st concerning the request of the Workers Union that they be supplied with certificates indicating the physical fitness of men you have examined. From the point of view of our general medical policy, I see no objection to your supplying such certificates to the management of refineries in which you make examinations. On the other hand I see no reason why you should be required to issue certificates to any outside organization. If it is necessary that such certificates be supplied by the employer, it would seem that they must furnish them on their own responsibility. If they wish to use your examinations and your opinion as the basis of such a statement, it would seem to me to be entirely proper for them to do so. I think this will make my point of view quite clear but in order to be certain I repeat that I feel it is your duty to give the management of the refineries any information concerning their men that may be required, although we have made it a point in this country to keep our records as our own property, and to report to the management only such information as we feel to be pertinent. The issuance of any certificates, therefore, should be to the management of these refineries and not to the workmen or to any other outside organization. Certificates of the type you mention should, in my opinion, be issued on the authority of the refinery officials since the men are their employees. I do not believe much in formalities and red tape, but I do like to see us maintain our own relationships in a perfectly clean-cut manner.

I shall look forward to seeing you in France this summer and I shall be quite certain to inform you in advance of my coming.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.