

December 14, 1970

P.S.I. Barry, M.D.
The Associated Octel Company Limited
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
England

Dear Pat:

First, let me say that I found your message that you would be in Washington, (as indeed you were) in your letter of October 27th which I had read with some care for its information about your visit with Mr. Baumgarte to Dr. Lehnert. Unfortunately, I was deeply immersed in editing the papers of the Amsterdam Conference, and while I must have seen the last paragraph of your letter, I passed over it hurriedly and didn't return to it, for the simple reason (I assume) that I had planned to attend the Congress in Washington and knew I would see you there, and didn't give it another thought, until, indeed, I did see you. I must confess, that I am more than a little embarrassed to have to admit that I do not seem to be able to carry more than one idea at a time in my head, when the idea involved is one on which I have to concentrate vigorously. I do not linger in embarrassment, however, since I am sure that you will not bear the matter in your mind against me.

I am and have been, for some time, concerned about the German situation, since, despite our properly remembered resentment at their deeds in the last half century, we must recognize them as a real force in European thought and action. This brings me to repeat to you what I have said previously, that if the time should come when you and your people believe that I should discuss the lead situation with the right people in Germany (or take some other action which might be useful), I shall make myself available (if not at once, certainly within a fairly brief time) to do what I can reasonably do. We shall have had enough experience in the United States, in all likelihood, to have some idea of what might be done and said. This is no longer a local issue anywhere. The very life of the industry is at stake, and for spurious reasons. I am convinced that the industry must take action, however, to deal with some of the problems effectively - that is, some of the issues which could be raised properly, such as (1) the matter of the conservation of lead against its wastage through dissipation in the air, and deposition on the land, and (2) the means of avoidance of serious congestion of automobile traffic in certain of our cities.

Thanks very much for keeping me informed as to what comes to your attention. I expect early in 1971 to extricate myself, as much as possible, from the matters which have been occupying most of my time and attention during the past two years. I must get at the publication of the experimental work in which we here have been engaged for nearly half a century. I've been made painfully aware that what we have done is not known and understood very far beyond those who,

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by reason of their long-term interests, have been familiar with the information through intramural discussions. This has handicapped me greatly in the brief appearances in which I've been involved publicly. A detailed monograph is greatly needed, and I must get at this promptly. Here again, I shall have to immerse myself to the exclusion of almost all else, and you, as well as others who are in the know, will have to brief me, periodically, with what is transpiring today and tomorrow.

At this time, however, I must stop talking of these matters, and convey to you my Christmas greetings. I've written to Anne, thanking her for her thought of us. Also, I have written to the Bevans'. Both Lucile and I have dear friends in this country, but my thoughts always turn at Christmas time to England, partly, of course, because of Katy, whose feeling about England and some of its special people is very like my own, but in large part because my friends there are very dear to me, among whom the Barrys' rank very high.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

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OUR REF. A.3.1.

YOUR REF.

27th October, 1970.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

Many thanks for your letter of October 20th. The attacks upon the use of lead in gasoline certainly seem to be gaining ground; but as you say, we can only hope that reason will prevail, although at the present time, this does not appear to be too likely.

On September 23th I visited Dr. Lehnert at the Institute of Occupational Health of the University of Erlangen in Germany, accompanied by Herr Baumgarte, our Director of the Biebesheim plant. We made this visit to him following reports on some of his work which have appeared in the newspaper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. I enclose Dr. Lehnert's article, together with a resumé of our discussions with him on September 23th. We found Dr. Lehnert to be a very reasonable person of high integrity, who is deeply interested in matters of occupational and environmental health. He was very upset with the comments that appeared in the newspaper, as he did not consider that these represented the findings outlined in his article on the concentrations of ALA in urine among Municipal workers in Frankfurt. We also discussed another article of his on the effects of concentrations of lead in the blood on chromosomal changes. This is referred to in the enclosed resumé of our discussion. I am having his original article translated into English and will forward this to you in due course.

On October 22nd I went with Herr Baumgarte to Oberjesingen, a small village situated some 30 kilometres south of Stuttgart, where a man named Ewald Sorg has set up a private laboratory which he has called the Biological and Physical Institute for the purpose of the block analysis of some 24 constituents of blood, including lead. He uses a spectrographic instrument for this work, but we did not get an opportunity to see it and he did not give us any explanatory details of its operation. Mr. Sorg is not medically qualified, and it was not made clear whether he had any other type of qualification, although I would imagine he must have had some training in chemical analysis. He maintained that concentrations of lead in the blood of up to 15 micrograms per 100 grams were normal, but that concentrations in excess of 20 micrograms per 100 grams were toxic and gave rise to non-specific symptoms, such as fatigue, irritability, lack of concentration and a vague depression. He indicated that concentrations of lead in the blood of less than 20 micrograms per 100 grams did not give rise to these symptoms.

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He told us also that he had been approached by the Ministry of Health in Germany to join a "group of experts" to consider matters relating to toxic substances, with a view to determining acceptable levels. His laboratory is quite small and obviously a very new unit, but it left me with the impression that it was being operated by unskilled people and was of very doubtful credibility. He obviously knew very little of investigatory work which had been undertaken by others in the past, and when we left Baumgarte and myself had formed the opinion that he was the nearest thing to a charlatan, who encouraged articles to be published in newspapers which would increase the numbers of his clientele. It is extraordinary to me that people can be so gullible and be taken in by a man like this. I enclose an article which appeared in "Bild" which reports upon his work, and which I think you would agree, confirms our opinion of him.

I also enclose other articles which have appeared in German newspapers over the past few months, which indicate the rising tide of opposition to the use of lead in gasoline.

Incidentally, Katin was transferred about a year ago from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Interior where he continues to exercise his influence towards the reduction and final elimination of lead from gasoline.

What the outcome will be it is impossible to say at this time, but we continue to hope that in the ultimate governmental reason will define a proper solution.

Mr. Harrison, our Technical Manager, is proposing to attend the Second International Clean Air Congress in Washington between December 6th to 11th, and after discussing the matter with him and also Dr. Aickin, it has been decided that I should accompany him. I have asked Errol Gay to have me included as a participant and will let you know of my accommodation and travel arrangements in due course. I do hope that I shall have an opportunity to see you there.

Kindest regards to you both.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Baum.

PSH/AL

RE 0006311

October 20, 1970

P.S.I. Barry, M.D.
The Associated Octel Company Limited
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
England

Dear Pat:

Your letter of October 7th brought good news especially that about Keith Fairley's visit. We shall, both of us, be delighted to see him. If he comes to us in April or May, we shall certainly be in Cincinnati, and while we haven't much room, in our new apartment, we shall find the means of entertaining him.

We shall also make point of seeing Mrs. Beritic. We, no doubt, shall be here (except for my short trips hither and yon, and also for the possibility that Lucile may go to Florida for some sunshine) rather than in San Francisco. We shall hardly go west before the middle of December.

Emil Pfitzer attended the meeting in Prague. He has just returned and given me an interesting account of it. It was good that he went. He and I have worked together closely in some matters, and I have concluded that he is a good man to take over my work, with a team composed of him and an equally competent physician. I don't expect to quit for quiet a while, but by working together and exchanging ideas, the transition will be fairly painless, I think, for him, and reassuring for me.

Thanks for the information about Katin in Germany. I shall appreciate your keeping me informed of matters in Europe. I obtain information from Ethyl S.A. in Brussels, and now from Art Hawkes, who is stationed there, whether for the moment or for a prolonged stay, I don't know. I don't know that I can do anything much about these things, but I shall continue to interest myself in what is going on.

We are going through quite a hassle in this part of the world. There are to be two hearings in California - Los Angeles (November 9) and San Francisco (November 10), in which I shall participate. It appears now that the California Department of Health is preparing to get the standard for lead in the ambient air adopted at 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter. Under the leadership of John Goldsmith, this is the figure adopted by them to promulgate in the hearings. It appears also that some, at least, of the oil companies are prepared to accept this without protest. This may seem to them to be wise policy - that of going along with the trend - at this time, but I think it likely that this is only the first step. In any case, if California takes such a step, it will have to cut back on the use of lead antiknock materials, and I would doubt that this would bring about a measureable decrease in the content of lead in the blood of representative groups of people. Therefore, if the effect is tested adequately by a comprehensive study of the population, in the failure to achieve the desired result, it will be necessary to go still lower and perhaps to eliminate lead entirely. Incidentally, it is quite doubtful, in my view, that such a step would produce the desired effect. What then?

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However, we shall see how the effort to combat this standard will go. I doubt that it will be successful, but I shall do what I can to delay it, at least.

I am sure that you know that I am completely sympathetic with the setting of environmental standards which must be achieved. I am sure that you will also recognize the futility of setting standards as a means, in themselves, of solving knotty hygienic problems. This, in the hands of realistic persons in government, is merely a political gesture of good will for which one may properly expect a reward at the polls of formal elections or in those of public favor. There are others, however, who take these as crusades in which the faithful take one side and the heathen take another. Unfortunately, when the "cause" is at stake, reason flies out the window of the individual mind, leaving only the emotional element of exaltation on one side, and mental depression on the other, according to the outcome.

I am in the full-blown process of writing a paper for "The Literary Club," the "holy of holies" in my literary life, on Australia. I am limiting my paper to the origin and something of the nature of its people, and I must finish it within the next few days. The date of my presentation is November 2, and if this turns out to be a "frost," it will be because I didn't begin early enough, in the present state of my mind (and body, still somewhat under par), to make proper use of the material which I have amassed. I shall try to avoid such an outcome, and so I must get busy.

Best regards to Anne and yourself.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
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OUR REF. A.3.1.

YOUR REF.

7th October, 1970.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 3rd. I am sorry that you will not be going to Prague, as this will mean that we shall not have an opportunity of seeing you over here. I shall write to Loritic and let him know of your new home address, so that his wife may contact you on her arrival in Cincinnati in November. I hope that you will not mind my doing this, but I think that you will find her to be a most charming person.

As regards Katin, there is not much more that we can tell you about him at the present time. As you know, he plays a very active part in the German Ministry of Health, (although he himself is not medically qualified, but I believe is a chemist). For a while he was associated with the Common Market Group of Companies based in Geneva, but has been back at Bonn I believe for a year or so, and is actively engaged in persuading the German Government to introduce legislation to reduce the present maximum concentration of lead in gasoline from 0.63 grams/litre down to 0.4 grams per litre. Whether such legislation will, in fact, be implemented is as yet not known. I note that you will be contacting Art Hawkes on the subject, and certainly, as and when we learn more of Katin's activity, we will keep you informed.

We have invited Keith Fairley to visit the U.K., and he has told us he would like to do this in May of next year. On his way over here, he will travel across the United States, and would hope to spend a day or two with you in Cincinnati (if you are there), or in San Francisco. I have asked Keith to write to you in the New Year when he has fixed his travel dates.

I am glad that your vertigo problem has improved, but especially that no organic cause was found. You may remember that Ray Bevan suffered from a similar problem involving the semicircular canals. At times he was completely immobilized by it, but in recent years, I gather it has become less of a problem to him. I am not sure if I told you, but earlier

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this year he was experiencing some pains in the chest, which were subsequently diagnosed as being of anginal origin. I don't believe, however, that this is troubling him much at the present time.

With kindest regards to you and Lucile, and we hope that we shall be seeing you both again one of these days.

Yours sincerely,

Pat.

PSIB/dl.

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