

Wailed to Mr. Walley's
LIA Member list on

June 23, 1966

Lead Industries Association, Inc.

202 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID M. BORCINA
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

June 22, 1966

To: All Members of the Lead Industries Association, Inc.

Re: Senate Hearings on Air Pollution

Gentlemen:

Attached hereto is a report on the subject for all LIA members by the Director of Health and Safety, Mr. Don Fowler.

The staff members directly concerned - Fowler, Roumas, Borcina and Kimberley - attended all hearings.

It is our opinion that the lead industry came out as well as can be expected at this time, although we certainly agree with the final paragraph of Don's report in which he points out that there is much need for continued research. We have probably just finished the first skirmish of a long war.

Sincerely,

David M. Borcina *J. L. Kimberley*
David M. Borcina J. L. Kimberley

JLK:sv
enclosure



Printed with Lead

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

From the Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association, Inc.
292 Madison Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.



Look Ahead with Lead

June 21, 1966

LEAD HYGIENE AND SAFETY BULLETIN
No. 167

To: All Members of the Lead Industries Association, Inc.

Summary of Senate Hearings on Air Pollution (June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15)

On June 7, 1966 the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution of the Senate Committee on Public Works opened hearings on S. 3112 and S. 3400. The Chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator Edmund S. Muskie, presided throughout. Only Senator Boggs was at all consistent in participation - a few other committee members attended intermittently. The audience was consistently less than 100. Press attendance was spotty.

Bill S. 3112 would authorize federal monies in support of state and municipal air pollution control programs, both newly instituted and those now under way. Bill S. 3400 would authorize funds to carry out a program of disposal of junked motor vehicles. In his opening statement Senator Muskie emphasized that the Subcommittee would "explore the question of environmental contamination from lead and other materials." In three other places in his short two-page opening statement Senator Muskie mentioned lead.

Day by day summaries follow:

Tuesday, June 7, 1966. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, John W. Gardner; Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature and chairman of a New York City Committee on Air Pollution, and Senator Paul Douglas, proponent of Bill S. 3400, testified.

Senator Douglas talked only on the automobile scrap problem.

Secretary Gardner expressed grave concern and stressed that air pollution is a contributing factor to respiratory diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema, and asthma. He pointed out that Drs. Stewart and Frindle would testify on lead and other toxic materials.

Mr. Cousins discussed the New York City situation in general, with emphasis on sulphur and all pollutants from auto exhausts.

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Wednesday, June 8, 1966. The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Dr. William H. Stewart, Dr. Richard Prindle of the Public Health Service, and Mr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr., Director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, testified.

Both Dr. Stewart and Dr. Prindle made extensive comments about lead with special reference to its presence in gasoline. Senator Muskie asked both of the physicians whether or not restrictive legislation would be required at this time to control lead in gasoline and both answered in the negative. Dr. Prindle stated that more research is necessary, and, in response to a question from Senator Muskie, Dr. Prindle stated that at least five years of study of the problem would be required.

Senator Muskie questioned Mr. Hibbard about the recently announced joint American Petroleum Institute-Bureau of Mines research project on motor fuel and air pollution. Hibbard pointed out that health effects are not part of the research and, in answer to direct questioning on what proved to be a controversial clause in the API-USBM contract, stated that the Bureau of Mines would not be restricted in publication of results in any manner as a result of the contract.

Thursday, June 9, 1966. Testifying were Dr. Harriet Hardy of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Robert A. Kehoe of the University of Cincinnati, and Senator Metcalf of Montana.

Dr. Hardy read a prepared statement on beryllium and did not mention lead until Senator Muskie asked her concerning it. In response Dr. Hardy mentioned that she was concerned about certain segments of the population, such as the ill, pregnant women, etc., and she felt that current knowledge of the situation was too fragmentary to make any decisions.

Dr. Kehoe was on the stand for approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes covering his prepared testimony and questions from Senator Muskie. A particular point that Senator Muskie pursued in the form of a hypothetical question was whether or not Kehoe would recommend the removal of lead from gasoline if an equivalent and non-toxic additive were to be found. Dr. Kehoe ultimately said "yes" but insisted that there is no substitute material available and that any new additive would have to be completely and thoroughly investigated, as TEL has been, before it would be safe to use. Senator Muskie made several comments to the effect that Dr. Kehoe's certainty about the safety of lead was highly unusual. Dr. Kehoe persisted that there is no potential threat to the health of the American population from the use of lead in gasoline at the present time, and that the amount of research presently being carried on is sufficient to alert the authorities long in advance of any such threat.

Senator Metcalf read a statement in which he came out for air pollution control in rural areas - particularly Montana.

Tuesday, June 14, 1966. Felix Wornser for the Lead Industries Association, Mr. P. H. Gammelgard of the American Petroleum Institute, and Mr. Vernon MacKenzie, Chief of the Division of Air Pollution of the U. S. Public Health Service, testified.

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Mr. Wormser read his statement. Senator Muskie posed questions on the "Survey of Lead in the Atmosphere of Three Urban Communities" (Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia) and details of statements made in that report. For instance, Senator Muskie asked Mr. Wormser why he was so positive that the "Three Cities" report confirms the fact that lead content of the air does not constitute a public health hazard, since Dr. Prindle and Dr. Stewart of the Public Health Service had testified previously that they were not reassured by this report. Mr. Wormser replied that his opinion resulted from the facts of the actual data found in the "Three Cities" report. Lead pollution was low.

Mr. Gammelgard was questioned insistently by the Senator on whether or not the API-Bureau of Mines agreement would allow unrestricted and complete disclosure of the results of this research project, and he was assured by Gammelgard that this would be so. In addition, Gammelgard was questioned about AMOCO non-leaded gasoline and why other companies could not provide such a product. Mr. Gammelgard pointed out clearly that at the present time it would be virtually impossible to produce enough non-leaded gasoline for general use in this country.

Mr. MacKenzie reiterated his opinion of the gravity of the overall problem but mentioned lead in gasoline only in passing. Senator Muskie questioned him on the testimony of earlier witnesses and about the potential hazard of lead in the atmosphere to the public health. MacKenzie answered these questions by restating the continuing need for caution and research to insure permanent control of the problem.

Wednesday, June 15, 1966. Clair Patterson, Ph. D., of Caltech testified entirely on lead. Other testimony was given by persons interested in scrap and auto body disposal.

Dr. Patterson presented nothing new but offered the same points as in his previous papers and speeches that all Americans are today being subjected to "chronic lead insult." Patterson dismissed the "Three Cities" report as a "white wash", called the World Health Organization report on lead levels "false and fallacious", and implied that the statements on lead by the World Health Organization, a subcommittee of the American Medical Association, various universities - even a maximum permissible lead content of apples by the Department of Agriculture - all were unduly influenced by lead interests. We believe Patterson's overstatements did not help his position with Senator Muskie. Patterson did receive a great deal of attention from the press and held a news conference immediately after his testimony was completed.

In summary, lead received much attention during the five days of hearings, but in the end it would appear that no one in an official capacity is of a mind to recommend restrictive legislation at this time. Everyone involved called for repeated and continuous investigation of "the lead problem" and that we are in for long-term study seems obvious.

Very truly yours,

Don O. Fowler

Don O. Fowler

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