

H. Kehoe
Mr. H. W. Kaley

New York

Mr. E. O. Jones

Chicago

Lake Erie Chemical Company,
Cleveland, Ohio

May 14, 1943

Dear Harry:

In talking with Ellis Locher over the phone today, I gave him a brief message for transmission to you regarding my contact with the above company. I hope you will pardon my not writing you fully before this, but train schedules and calls have been packed so tightly together that I have not had an opportunity.

In company with Louis Slack, I called on Mr. Edelman, who is Director of Research for this company. They manufacture a variety of highly toxic materials, some of which go into police use, such as tear gas and so on, and others are being built for the Chemical Warfare Department.

This company needs a source for the ethyl radical (C_2H_5) and have come to the conclusion that tetraethyl lead is the most convenient and prolific means of obtaining it. They seem to be in no way concerned with the toxic properties of tetraethyl lead, and also seem to feel that their experience in handling this type of ~~material~~ ^{material} qualifies them competely.

At the time of my call, they were not quite clear as to how they would handle large quantities and would be willing to accept in the main our mechanical recommendations. The estimated amount which may be needed in a comparatively few months would be possibly one 55 gallon drum per day.

The laboratory and other manufacturing facilities are extremely sloppy for a concern of this type. So much so, in fact that we got quite a dose of tear gas by merely walking from one floor to another. This sort of condition made me wonder whether we ought to accept orders for large quantities without considerable investigation.

Accordingly, I called Dr. Kehoe on the telephone (he was in Lorain, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, at the time) and outlined the situation to him. He suggested, and Mr. Edelman agreed, that Lake Erie Chemical Company write a complete outline of their requirements to the Kettering Laboratory, after which either Dr. Kehoe or one of his representatives would call and discuss the medical and organic chemical aspects fully.

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In the meantime, we will receive a purchase order for two or three laboratory cans of tetraethyl lead for use in preliminary experiments. I feel perfectly safe in recommending that this small order be filled without hesitation as there are adequate numbers of small hoods, gloves and masks available.

I will discuss this whole situation with you more fully when I return to New York next week.

Very truly yours,

J:G

E. O. Jones

copies to

Mr. O. B. Lewis
Dr. R. A. Kehoe