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CONSP. FILES.

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101869

November 3, 1924. RRS/SJD

Mr. Thomas Midgley,
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation,
555 Cunard Building,
25 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Midgley:

Doctor Sayers informs me that you called him on the phone this morning and stated that it had been decided to discontinue the production of ethyl gasoline for ninety days; that you were not in accord with this decision and hoped that this Bureau would be willing to write to those who have made the decision stating that it believed nothing would be gained by so doing.

While this Bureau is cognizant of the benefit to be derived from the use of ethyl gasoline and is interested in the subject from the standpoint of fuel conservation, it does not believe it to be within the scope of its work to attempt to suggest to the manufacturers of ethyl gasoline that the manufacture of it should be continued. We believe the Bureau is not warranted in going further at this time than it did in the general statement which was given to the press. In other words, it is believed that we have practically covered the subject. We are hastening the investigation on the effects of the diluted tetraethyl lead as rapidly as possible and will give you an early report. However, much of this phase of the problem has been covered by Doctor Kehoe and considerable information is known from a practical standpoint in that it has been sold for some months on the open market.

As before stated, this Bureau is greatly interested in this subject and it will be very glad, I assure you, to endeavor to supply to you and to all others interested in the matter any information that we have collected at any time, especially if it will assist you or the companies with whom you are working in deciding policies.

Yours very truly,

D. A. LYON, Acting Director
For H. FOSTER BAIN, Director.

RFB

101869 (Sayers)

725

Washington, D. C.

November 8, 1924. RRS/ajb

~~Dr. Graham Edgar~~
The Ethyl Gasoline Corporation,
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Edgar:

Inclosed is copy of report of progress on the
ethyl gasoline investigation, Problem 2, for the period
from October 1 to November 1, 1924.

We shall be glad to receive any suggestions you
may have with regard to this report.

Sincerely yours,

R. R. SAYERS
Chief Surgeon, U.S.B. of M.
Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S.

Inclosure No. 26652.

7/12/28

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 General FIVE J.
 1824-35
 (1346-216)
 TEL

November 28, 1924

The President,
 General Motors Company,
 General Motors Co. Building,
 Detroit, Michigan.

Sir:

I have received a letter from Professor Vandell Henderson, of Yale University, recommending that the Public Health Service call a conference in the near future to discuss the possible public health problems which might result from the widespread use of tetraethyl lead compound in gasoline as an automobile fuel. Several organizations in the United States, including the Bureau of Mines and the Public Health Service, Columbia University, and the Chemical Warfare Service of the Army, have been engaged for a number of months in making detailed studies of the effect on animals of tetraethyl lead compound, the gasoline solution of tetraethyl lead, and the exhaust fumes of automobiles burning this gasoline.

These studies have approached the subject from a number of public health angles, and it is my understanding that they will, in the main, be completed early in 1925.

It is my desire, in communicating with you, to learn your opinion of the desirability for the Public Health Service to call a conference, such as suggested by Professor Henderson. The purpose of such a conference would be to consider the results obtained by different investigators, and to advise regarding additional experimental work should such be necessary. It would also make recommendations regarding the handling and use of tetraethyl lead compounds as would adequately protect the health, both of the general public, and of industrial workers engaged in its manufacture.

Cases of poisoning from tetraethyl lead have received such widespread publicity in the past month that I would greatly appreciate your frank discussion of the whole subject.

(Signed) H. S. Gammeter

1340-216-GENERAL (Conference on Tetraethyl poisoning.)

1924-35

(1340-216)

TEL

November 29, 1924

Edsall Gas Corporation,
c/o General Motors Co.,
General Motors Building,
Detroit, Mich.

Gentlemen:

I have received a letter from Professor Vandell Herson, of Yale University, recommending that the Public Health Service call a conference in the near future to discuss the possible public health problems which might result from the widespread use of tetraethyl lead compound in gasoline as an automobile fuel. Several organizations in the United States, including the Bureau of Mines and the Public Health Service, Columbia University, and the Chemical Warfare Service of the Army, have been engaged for a number of months in making detailed studies of the effect on animals of tetraethyl lead compound, the gasoline solution of tetraethyl lead, and the exhaust fumes of automobiles burning this gasoline solution.

These studies have approached the subject from a number of public health angles, and it is my understanding that they will, in the main, be completed early in 1925.

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Cases of poisoning from tetraethyl lead have received such widespread publicity in the past month that I would greatly appreciate your frank discussion of the whole subject.

(Signed) H. S. Gantt