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Mellon Institute

H.F. Robertson
New York Office

May 15, 1956

Dr. T.W. Hale ←

Extraction Studies on
VCCA-3400 Yellow 523

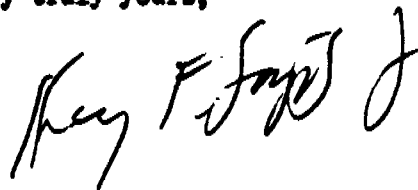
Dear Dr. Robertson:

This is a comment on your letter of May 11 to Mr. J.W. Shilling on the above subject. I do not suggest any change in your request to him, but I think you should have some background information for future use.

Last week I had an opportunity to go over all the F.D.A. work on certified colors. Of the 15 out of 116 which they have studied recently, only FD&C Yellow 5 has been found to show no evidence of injurious action. Some colors will be removed from the list of those permitted in food use. FD&C Yellow 5 has the best chance of remaining on the list. Therefore, when we can ignore immediate urgencies, it would be well to think of this color as preferable to some others.

The F.D.A. controls lead and arsenic content by testing and certifying each batch of color sold. Its present concern for harmlessness refers to the toxic effects of the color itself and its unavoidable organic impurities. Eventually, the Act must be changed to permit F.D.A. to establish a tolerance for the amount of each color which may be in food, but this is impossible now.

Very truly yours,



Henry F. Smyth, Jr.

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