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pencil drawing of cutter
sent to Graham Edgar
in New York office Feb 28th 1933

February 5, 1929

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In conclusion I can think of only two possibilities. One is that they develop a mixing apparatus which will meet with our approval for handling small quantities of fluid and that no shipments of fluid be made until this device is approved. The other, that they should select some one point at which they can do mixing in the usual manner, shipping the mixed gasoline to their other distributing points. I do not believe that there are any other ways by which this thing can be handled without endangering our whole safety program.

February 5, 1929

Mr. A. E. Mittnacht,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
25 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Mittnacht:

Your letter of January 31 in regard to the supplying of Ethyl Gasoline to the Royal Australian Air Force puts a somewhat different front on the picture. I do not believe we can afford to allow mixing to be carried out on a small scale at five different points in Australia by means of equipment which is to be devised by persons over whom we have no control. Our experience with small mixing devices has been unsatisfactory to say the least. It seems to me that it should be possible to set up a satisfactory mixing equipment at some one of these points and to ship the already mixed gasoline from this point to the other points. This would allow mixing by means of a proper system which would make use of a comparatively small storage tank. I should certainly not approve of shipping fluid to them except as they have already devised the mixing equipment which we can approve of without reservations. If they can do this it would be a very good thing for we could very easily make use of a really satisfactory small mixing apparatus. The one which is in use at one of our English mixing plants is not entirely satisfactory and except for the fact that it is used infrequently and with the utmost caution, I should regard it as dangerous.

I have already expressed myself on the subject of the filling of the small cartridges and I do not feel that I need to modify what I have said on that subject. I should certainly regard it as very unsatisfactory to have these cartridges filled from 50-gallon drums. With all due respect to the chemists who might do this mixing, I do not feel that their training affords any considerable assurance that their technic will be above reproach.

In conclusion I can think of only two possibilities. One is that they develop a mixing apparatus which will meet with our approval for handling small quantities of fluid and that no shipments of fluid be made until this device is approved. The other, that they should select some one point at which they can do mixing in the usual manner, shipping the mixed gasoline to their other distributing points. I do not believe that there are any other ways by which this thing can be handled without endangering our whole safety program.

Very truly yours,

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