

June 13, 1941

Dr. Russell M. Kurten
810 Main Street
Racine
Wisconsin

Dear Doctor Kurten:

Thanks very much for
passing along to me a copy of Mr. Kitto's letter
of May [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

I have gone over the information contained in this letter and also in the former letter dated April 25th, and I may say that it is somewhat difficult for me to visualize the extent of the possible lead exposure of these men from the information given. For example, so far as I am able to see from the recorded information, the lead exposure of [REDACTED] during the past two years may well have been the same as that of [REDACTED]. From the analytical data this can be doubted, I believe. Accordingly, therefore, I wonder if it would not be possible for Mr. Kitto to give me somewhat more detailed information that would enable me to come to some more definite conclusion concerning the opportunities for lead exposure experienced by all of the men on whom we did analytical determinations. I certainly do not want Mr. Kitto to search his mind and the conditions in the plant for any synthetic explanation of the different analytical findings which have been obtained, for any such effort on his part would completely defeat my purpose. On the other hand, and quite apart from the analytical data, I would be very grateful to him if he would give me somewhat more detailed information concerning the work of these men, particularly during the period of three months or so immediately preceding the collection of these samples. If there have been any important changes in the character or location of the work of these men, I would like to have it. As one looks over these data, the conclusion is inescapable that the men as a group have had occupational lead exposure. Two of them, at least, would seem to have had rather considerable exposure and yet it might well be that the two high urinary values were the result of

obtaining a somewhat concentrated sample of urine in close time relationship to a rather significant but brief lead exposure. I would like to satisfy myself on the significance of these points, if possible. I should tend to discard the significance of these two high results except for the fact that on several occasions the results obtained on Alvin Putney were quite high.

In general, from the survey of all of the findings, it would seem that lead exposure in this plant, while definite and measureable, is not unduly hazardous. However I would like to be sure that that is the case before making a flat statement, and, therefore, a better interpretation of the exposure of the two men on whom high results were obtained would seem to be indicated.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.