



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

BUREAU OF STATE SERVICES

REFER TO:

JAN 18 1966

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
The Kettering Laboratory
Department of Preventive Medicine
and Industrial Health
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

I read with considerable interest your letter of December 22, 1965, regarding a possible explanation for the elevated levels of lead found in the blood of eleven persons in the Three Cities Survey.

I believe we share the view that these reported levels should be checked for the possibility of sampling or analytical error or unusual exposure to lead. In the absence of one of these possibilities, there is the likelihood that for some persons in the general population the lead concentration in the blood would reach a level which is "indicative of potentially dangerous absorption of lead."

Your suggestion that the possibility be investigated of a previous unusual exposure to lead among those who reported elevated levels in the survey is a good one. I take your other suggestion to mean that when these people are located, if they can be, that new blood samples be taken to verify the levels previously reported. I have asked Dr. Horton's group to look into the possibility of doing both of these things.

It would be very comforting for me to be as confident as you imply that all segments of the general population are safe from undue lead exposure. However, at the moment, I feel that we must continue to be concerned that this may no longer be the case until the matter can be further clarified.

Sincerely yours,

V. G. MacKenzie, Chief

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