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Head Office:
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18th November, 1938.

Dr. R. A. Kehoe,
Department of Applied Physiology,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
CINCINNATI, Ohio.

Dear Bob,

Tegner wrote you on the 1st November relative to the manufacture in Belgium of a volatile anti-knock compound by the firm of "Compromat".

A sample of their product "Comprethyl", which we obtained some time ago, has, on analysis, been found to contain a volatile lead compound. An analysis carried out by the Esso Laboratories in London and the Shell Laboratories in Amsterdam, both showed that the only effective anti-knock ingredient of "Comprethyl" was a volatile lead compound in the proportion of 13/15%.

Tegner had a meeting in Brussels yesterday with the firm who are acting as sales agents for Compromat, and was advised that this company (Betco) had now concluded an agreement with Davis to supply 100,000 Kgs. of "Comprethyl" a year for the next five years. The intention is to use "Comprethyl" in the Mexican gasoline which is being handled by Davis, and I believe Davis has in mind using some of this compound in Mexico and the balance in cargoes of gasoline shipped to Germany.

Betco indicated to Tegner that Davis was planning to set up some sort of mixing equipment on his tankers so that these tankers could pick up a quantity of "Comprethyl" in Antwerp and blend it with the gasoline between Antwerp and the discharge of the vessel at Hamburg.

We have warned both Compromat and Betco that the use of Comprethyl constitutes an infringement of our patent rights, and I believe it would be comparatively simple to approach the German Government and have a ban placed on the import of this product into Germany. The question of Mexico, however, is a more difficult one.

It occurred to me that in view of your discussion with Dr. Staessens you might like to write to him (I would suggest with a copy to Dr. Roels) on the question of the health hazards involved in the manufacture of volatile lead compounds.

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To

Dr. R. A. Kehoe.

DATE 18th November, 1938.

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We are of the opinion that both Dr. Staessens and Dr. Roels will be opposed to Compromat building a plant for the manufacture of a volatile lead compound. Compromat, of course, may proceed on the basis of a semi-works plant without approaching the Belgian Health Authorities for permission to manufacture.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Owen

cc. Mr. Webb.