

May 29, 1934

Mr. R. J. Connor
Gulf Refining Company
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Connor:

Dr. Schradin told me on his return that you would like to have a note on which I expressed my opinion as to the condition of your Mr. [REDACTED] after examining the evidence.

It seems perfectly clear to me that Mr. [REDACTED] condition has nothing to do with the absorption of lead from leaded gasoline. This opinion is expressed after consideration of the following points: (1) As you know, we have been quite unable to substantiate any cases of lead absorption from the handling of gasoline, and our experimental work indicates that absorption does not occur out of commercial gasolines. Some thousands of men have been occupied in the handling of Ethyl Gasoline over a number of years. We have studied a number of these men carefully from time to time and have been unable to find any evidence of lead absorption even after as long as ten years of continuous work. (2) It seems highly improbable, therefore, that the very short exposure of your employee to a gasoline containing an unusually low concentration of lead could result in lead absorption, and lead poisoning. (3) The clinical condition which has been described does not correspond to a typical chronic lead poisoning in such a way as to overthrow the accumulated evidence of years. An absolutely typical case substantiated by proper laboratory findings would be necessary in order to establish even the possibility of lead poisoning from the handling of gasoline.

We are justified for the above reasons in believing that this is not a case of lead poisoning, unless it could be shown quite definitely that Mr. [REDACTED] had been otherwise exposed to significant amounts of lead in other forms than that associated with leaded gasoline.

Very truly yours,

RAK:IS

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.