

May 23, 1941

Mr. O. E. Lewis
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
997 West 6th Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I have received quite a sheaf of correspondence from Mr. Lowe of Proportioneers Incorporated, including copies of letters which he has written to Major Howard A. Starret in the office of the Quartermaster General's office in Washington, D. C., and Mr. Teitworth of Socony-Vacuum Oil Company. He has also sent along the material which he prepared in response to Major Starret, including information relative to the proportioning device developed by Proportioneers. He asked that I release this information for immediate presentation to Major Starret. However I have taken a somewhat different tack. I have written Major Starret in accordance with a copy enclosed herewith, hoping that by the time I receive his reply, it will be possible for you either to make suitable arrangements for meeting him in Washington, or to suggest some means by which persons with whom you have been dealing could present the subject to Major Starret. I am assuring that the Quartermaster General's department does not know much about the subject and that they wish to buy gasoline like eggs, bacon and uniforms. I may be mistaken in this, but I believe you will be able to judge what might be advisable to show further to Major Starret, and how we had best approach the question of presenting the whole subject to him.

Ben Crane will be in the laboratory tomorrow to present to us his last data on the equipment at East St. Louis. On the basis of that, we should have some further useful facts which will help us in any interviews required hereafter on this subject. I should appreciate any suggestions which you have to offer as to proper procedure, and I hope we can keep this matter at bay until we are able to handle it in proper fashion. I do not want to be placed in the awkward position of keeping the Quartermaster General's department from obtaining what they want, nor do I want to have to hold Socony-Vacuum and Proportioneers at bay any more than is absolutely

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necessary. What I do want to avoid is confusion and a later headache for ourselves.

It may be that this matter is not as urgent as it would appear. Indeed it may be that the Proportioneers group have started the whole thing and are playing it as forcefully as possible. In any case I should be glad to have your suggestions and I will keep you informed as to any subsequent developments. I hope we shall be able to handle this in such a way that you can work out the details of it in Washington along with your other duties there.

Very truly yours,

RAA:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.