Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

March 25, 1930.

THE TARIFF SITUATION

To the Members of the Lead Industries Association:

On Monday, March 24, the Senate completed its long task of amending the new tariff law known as H.R.2667. The status of the bill is now as follows:

The Senate will report the bill back to the House as amended by the Senate. As the House and Senate drafts are far apart on a great many items and provisions, the differences will have to be adjusted, and a new draft made acceptable to both bodies of Congress. This will be accomplished through the medium of a conference between the five ranking committeemen, three Republicans and two Democrats, of the House Ways and Means Committee and a like number of the Senate Finance Committee, who will attempt to reconcile all differences between House and Senate versions of what constitutes a proper tariff law. All of the rates and provisions of H.R.2667 on which there is complete agreement between Senate and House are not subject to change in conference. The conferees may not rewrite the tariff bill. At most they can only compromise between the Senate and House views, or accept either Senate or House rates. It is expected that the conference committee will take about a month in its labors.

After having agreed on all rates and provisions the Conference Committee will make a report to the Senate and the House through its respective conferees. The Senate and the House then have the option of either accepting the conference bill as a whole, or rejecting it, or recommitting it to the conference committee with instructions to make certain alterations. When the Senate and the House have finally agreed on all controversial points, and the bill has received the approval of both bodies the completed draft is sent to the President for his signature.

As all of the House rates and provisions in which the Lead Industries Association has an interest emerged unchanged from the Senate, no changes can be made in conference affecting our interests. An unexpected attempt was made in the Senate to cut the tariff on red lead, litharge and white lead but through the efforts of the Lead Industries Association the rates on red lead and litharge, which were actually cut, were subsequently restored so that the lead pigment rates are now all on the present, or 1922 tariff law, basis. Regardless of what happens in conference, the 1922 rates on lead as a raw material and finished product, or in the form of its numerous manufactures will not be disturbed.

Our drawback matter, Sec. 313, Par. (b), has also emerged from both Houses unchanged from the form in which we urged its passage in originally advocating the measure and, regardless of the ultimate composition of the bill, will now become law if any tariff law at all is signed by the President. Thus culminates an effort which has been made repeatedly over a long period of years during previous tariffs to bring about an extremely constructive change in the tariff so that American manufacturers of lead products may compete more readily for export lead trade. It is very gratifying that the Lead Industries Association was fortunate in succeeding where so many others had failed. As a matter of fact, we have been 100 per cent successful in all our tariff activities owing to the excellent co-operation of our members.

Respectfully yours,

F. E. Wormser

Secretary.