HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

From the Director of Health and Safety
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Look Ahead with Lead

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LEAD HYGIENE AND SAFETY BULLETIN
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To All Members of the Lead Industries Association, Inc.:

SURVEY OF LEAD IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THREE URBAN COMMUNITIES

The long delayed report with the above title has just been completed by the U. S. Public Health Service. This report covers a study conducted over a 12-month period, from June, 1961 through May, 1962 in Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Over 3400 atmospheric samples at twenty sites in these cities, plus 4000 blood and urine samples taken from selected population groups living in these cities, were analyzed for lead. The analytical results are tabulated and the data is thoroughly discussed and interpreted.

The study is one of the most intensive conducted anywhere as an evaluation of air pollution. In summary the report states: "The annual average concentration of lead in the atmosphere ranged from about 2 micrograms per cubic meter of air in the downtown and industrial area of Cincinnati, to about 1 in the outlying areas of that city. The values in corresponding areas in Philadelphia ranged from 3 to 1, and in Los Angeles from 3 to 2."

Taking into account the findings from the National Air Sampling Network, which has been analyzing city air since 1957, the report indicates that there has been little change in the amount of lead in the atmosphere over the last several years. This authoritative report should provide all the ammunition needed to assure members of the general public and the press that lead is not a significant factor in pollution of the atmosphere.

Because of the importance of this report the L.I.A. will devote its next "Facts Bulletin" to the subject of air pollution, basing our Bulletin largely on the material provided in the Public Health Service report. Our Bulletin will be available within the next few months, and will be announced to you in the usual manner.