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PERSONAL - Hold for return

20 August 1947

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
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Dear Bob:

Have been advising the A.E.C. on matters of plant control with respect to beryllium et al.

At a meeting today with Dr. Bernard S. Wolf and Mr. Merle Eisenbud, the latter of whom has just been engaged as engineer, the question came up of the analysis of Be samples in air as part of a plant control program which they wish to institute for all beryllium producers. I can make available to them a portion of the facilities here in Sylvania for a limited time; but in view of their relationships, it would appear far better for them to subsidize or enter into an agreement with some University laboratory to have their routine samples run for them. Eisenbud would see to the selection of sampling points, collection, etc., and the problem would entail only routine analysis. It occurred to me that Kettering would be the logical place and that you might be interested in undertaking this, and I have steered Wolf your way. There are only three plants at present; but the future, insofar as overall supervision for many other places and of course of the users of Be in private industry, could easily follow.

One further matter came up for discussion. The Commission has a small number of uranium plants scattered around the United States. At the present time, Wolf and his cohort, Eisenbud, are or will shortly become responsible for the industrial hygiene activities. These will entail medical supervision, for which they have doctors; industrial hygiene engineering, which Eisenbud will do in part; and analytical studies. Wolf is a radiologist, and is not in a position to coordinate the overall activity. Furthermore, the A.E.C. operates the plants, and Wolf is their man. It is believed that, in view of the importance of the situation, that the correlation and overall supervision of the plants should be by a recognized industrial research establishment with practical experience and of unquestioned standing.

Hodge, as I gather, has never taken any great interest in the plants, nor has he had time to do much more than many research tasks thrust upon him. I believe this kind of work would be a natural for Kettering Laboratory, since it would comprise essentially the same broad approach we used with

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the TEL plants. It has been hinted that the uranium plants are not in too good shape hygienically. The radiation aspect is well handled; but the inhalation, by-products, and heavy metal problems have been largely lost sight of with the emphasis having been put on radiation. Wolf intends to take this matter up with you, too; and I think it may offer some very promising avenues for research as an outgrowth of the plant observations and studies.

I shall be dashing off for a short holiday the end of this week and will return in early September. I hope to have more information for you then.

My spies tell me that the new president is a very energetic go-getter. He is also understood to be very economy-minded --- more later.

Cordially,

Bill

Willard Machle, M. D.

WM:md
Encl.

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