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3/20/57
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DR. PHILIP BOYD

Chief Medical Officer

OUR REF. MU/K.1.

YOUR REF.

July 30, 1957.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
The Kettering Laboratory,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Eden Avenue,
CINCINNATI 19,
Ohio,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

Further to my recent letter about Dr. Akatsuka, I am enclosing copies of two letters which may be of interest to you. The first is from Du Pont and the second is from one of the construction people of the Yokkaichi Refinery.

To give you a little more background on these letters, I should mention that Dr. Akatsuka has apparently dogmatically recommended that the modifications suggested by the Associated Ethyl Company should not be implemented at the blending plant of this Refinery, and I do feel that this interference is quite unjustified. Apart from this, as you will appreciate, it is quite clear from the Du Pont letter that Dr. Akatsuka is reporting to Du Pont on the technical aspects of our business, and while I can see that there might be some reason for this in terms of his interest in safety, I cannot help feeling that such an activity is itself very easy to abuse.

With regard to the Du Pont letter, I should state that it is our well-confirmed practical experience that the old method of gasoline washing tetraethyl lead drums by no means completely enables all the tetraethyl lead to be blended with the storage gasoline. In fact the great proportion of our returned drums that have been gasoline-washed shows that there is a considerable quantity of tetraethyl lead left in the wash, amounting sometimes to up to 100 c.c. or more of pure anti-knock compound. The argument therefore from the safety and hygiene point of view does not hold water and in addition by gasoline washing you increase the transportation hazards by having inflammable material. The second point

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noted with regard to the customers being assured of receiving all the tetraethyl lead for which they have been billed is covered by the same argument.

It is not my point here to question Du Pont's letter as such, but to question what use Dr. Akatsuka is going to make of such a letter in his relationships with customer companies, for I believe he should not enter into such discussions at all, unless he restricts himself entirely to purely medical matters on which he is properly and fully informed.

I am sorry to bother you further with this whole subject, but it does in fact highlight the very problem which we have discussed at so much length in the past.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Philip

Encl.
PRB/jmr

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