

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1802
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WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 2, 1956

MR. DAVID H. CONKLIN
DIRECTOR OF SALES
PETROLEUM CHEMICALS DIVISION
7539 NEMOURS BUILDING

Attached is a report on our trip to the West Coast. We feel that this trip has been valuable not so much for what we did but for the information we picked up and the impressions we gained. For instance, we feel that Du Pont should view with some concern the activities of Chandler Phillips, who is pointing the finger directly at lead as being one of the major irritating constituents of smog. If the activities of Mr. Phillips were limited to his Glendale area, there would be no cause for concern because he has gotten publicity only in the Glendale papers. What he has done, however, is to influence the thinking of legislative leaders and medical people who up until now apparently have been confused about tetraethyl lead and lead oxide since much of their information seems to come from Mr. Phillips.

Because Mr. Phillips has been influencing people who are in a position to call for legislation against the use of leaded gasoline we feel that it is important that we furnish these people, either through the Western Oil and Gas Association or directly, as much information as possible about tetraethyl lead and its combustion products. We also feel that it is to our advantage to have and to develop more data to provide answers for any persons who might ask questions.


S. L. Rankin, M. D.,
Medical Advisor
Petroleum Chemicals Division


B. J. Burkett
Public Relations

SLR:BJB/hlg
Attachment

N22197

RANKIN - BURKETT

WEST COAST VISIT - January 23-27

Persons visited:

Los Angeles
January 23

Don Sweeney - Secretary, Air Pollution Control Committee,
Western Oil and Gas Association.

Dr. Rankin
Brent Malin
B. J. Burkett
G. Tyler

January 24
Morning

Dr. Lauren B. Hitchcock - Director, Air Pollution
Foundation.

Rankin
Malin
Burkett

Luncheon

Jack Sembower	- West Coast Public Relations Mgr., Shell Oil Company.
Ty Scoggins	- Sembower's assistant.
Felix Chappellet	- General Manager.
Don Sweeney	- Western Oil and Gas Association.

Tyler
Rankin
Burkett
Malin

Afternoon

P. S. Magruder - Executive V. P. General Petroleum Corp.
(chairman of Air Pollution Control
Committee - Western Oil and Gas Association.)

Tyler
Rankin
Malin
Burkett

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Night
Dr. Mac Pherson

Dinner - Dr. Rankin

- Dean of College of Medical
Evangelists.
(chairman of Scientific Ad-
visory Committee Air Pollu-
tion Control District.)

Meeting of Scientific
Advisory Committee Air Pollution
Control District

Dr. Rankin

January 25
Morning

Dr. Francis M. Pottenger, Jr. - Chairman of Air Pollution
Committee, Los Angeles County
Medical Society.

Rankin
Malin
Burkett

Afternoon
Assemblyman - Thomas L. Rees - Member of Committee on
59th District Public Health.

Tyler
Rankin
Burkett

San Francisco - Berkeley
January 26

John A. Maga - Chief, Bureau of Air Sanitation State
Department of Public Health.

Rankin
Malin
Burkett

January 27
Morning

Assemblyman - W. Byron Rumford - Chairman of Committee
17th District on Public Health.

Tyler
Rankin
Burkett

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Luncheon

W. H. Claussen - Executive Secretary to Smoke and Fumes
Committee, American Petroleum Institute
(on leave of absence from Standard of
California.)

Don Sweeney

Tyler
Rankin
Malin
Burkett

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January 23
Don Sweeney - Western Oil and Gas Association

Don Sweeney briefed us on the general smog situation in Los Angeles and described the attitudes and opinions of some of the persons we would be contacting. He spotlighted the activities of Chandler Phillips, and said that he had requested the help of Ethyl in combatting these attacks. P. H. Director James E. Boudreau was supposed to have relayed this request to President E. L. Shea. According to Sweeney, Ethyl has submitted two long lists of questions to the Western Oil and Gas Association and hasn't been heard from since that time.

Sweeney asked that we report to him our impressions after talking to the representative group he had set up for us to interview. This group was chosen to reflect the opinions of medical, public health, scientific, and legislative people.

January 24
Morning
Dr. Hitchcock - Air Pollution Foundation

Dr. Hitchcock outlined the work of the Air Pollution Foundation. He isn't unduly concerned about lead (said that air samples revealed 1.7 to 7 micrograms per cubic meter of air) or Chandler Phillips. Smog, in Dr. Hitchcock's opinion, is a national rather than a local problem, and some of the techniques used in evaluating Los Angeles smog might well be adapted to assist other areas with their smog problems.

The foundation head said that aerometric surveys in the Los Angeles area had been discontinued because of lack of funds. The surveys had cost around \$400,000, and would cost around \$500,000 a year if carried out on a year-round basis. Dr. Hitchcock indicated that it was important that this activity be carried out on a continuing basis. He said that other groups are concerned with smog, but that in his opinion the only

logical way of approaching the problem is first to find out what smog consists of so it may be fought more effectively.

Dr. Hitchcock said that he would give priority to the following projects:

1. Hydrocarbon control.
2. Nitrogen control.
3. Human exposure to exhaust gases in a chamber in effort to determine whether reduction in hydrocarbons would reduce lachrymator effects of smog.
4. Determine the human toleration level for smog so that researchers could then strive toward reducing it to that level.

The one specific request made by Dr. Hitchcock was for Du Pont to furnish him with any information we may have on the chemistry of nitrogen. He said that he is anxious to learn how to convert, neutralize or decompose nitrous oxides, resulting from combustion. These oxides are believed to be contributors to smog. It was suggested that the ammonia people in the Polychemicals Department may be able to supply such information.

According to Dr. Hitchcock, the Ethyl Corporation has been very helpful in supplying personnel and equipment to the foundation. While not soliciting money, he made it clear that the foundation needs additional funds to carry out its extensive program.

January 24
Lunch
Sembower
Sweeney
Chappellet
Scoggins

At lunch, we discussed our Hitchcock visit with Sweeney, Sembower, Chappellet and Scoggins. At this time Sembower clarified his earlier request for a demonstration to show what smog is, how it is formed and what it consists of. He suggested that our sales promotion people could work up such a demonstration to be turned over to the Western Oil and Gas Association and said that Du Pont would not in any way be identi-

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fied with it.

Sembower's idea was that this demonstration consist of a relief type map of the Los Angeles basin enclosed in a container with an inversion layer being moved up and down in the container. Miniatures of the various pollutant sources, such as a backyard incinerator and automobile exhaust, and a factory smokestacks, would emit smoke into the air above the layer.

Don Sweeney and Felix Chappellet requested that Sweeney be furnished any information we might have on lead or additives. If we have any information on exhaust gases, they of course would like to have that, but if not they are interested in Sweeney's being informed about lead so he will have the background information to draw upon when asked questions. They made it clear that such information would be for background information only and would not be identified with Du Pont unless we requested that it be.

Sweeney and Chappellet further requested that Sweeney be given permission to call us at any hour of the day or night to get an immediate answer on questions about lead and additives. It was agreed that George Tyler would first be contacted, and if Tyler thought it was necessary that information be cleared and / or obtained in Wilmington, Sweeney would contact Burkett who would attempt to get information for him. Sweeney is trying to prepare himself to give hard and fast answers to those who point the finger at lead.

January 24
Early afternoon
Smog Movie

We viewed a new movie called "A Report on Smog." This partially animated movie covers almost all aspects of the smog situation. George Tyler has requested that it be sent to Wilmington for viewing by Wilmington management.

KE 0019135

Afternoon
P. S. Magruder

Mr. Magruder discussed the oil industry part in the general smog situation. He said that he felt the accusations being made by Chandler Phillips should be rebutted in some manner. One way would be for Dr. Rankin to grant a press interview on lead, he said. He also thought it would be a good idea for Dr. Rankin to present a paper before a technical society, with reprints of the paper being made available to the Western Oil and Gas Association. Mr. Magruder seemed to be looking forward to an expected visit by Dr. Kehoe.

January 24
Evening
Dr. Mac Pherson
Meeting of Scientific Advisory Committee

At dinner with Dr. Mac Pherson, Dr. Rankin observed that Dr. Mac Pherson showed no undue concern about the harmful effects of lead in the atmosphere.

During the meeting of the advisory committee, the general subject of smog was discussed for three and a half hours, and Dr. Rankin felt that at no time was lead blamed for being a major factor in the smog situation. At that meeting, however, Mr. Griswold, director of the Air Pollution Control District, read an invitation from Chandler Phillips to debate with him on the lead aspects of smog. The committee decided not to accept.

January 25
Morning
Dr. Pottenger

Dr. Pottenger gave the historical background of smog, highlighting the part medical societies have played in spearheading investigative programs. We got three main impressions from our conversation with Dr. Pottenger.

1. He looks upon smog as a definite health problem and desires the funds and facilities to prove it. KE 0019136

2. He is concerned as to the possible role lead might be playing in the "public health hazards of smog."

3. Feeling that smog is a public health hazard, he seems to want to create a public demand for legislation to minimize the hazard.

Not having factual data to demonstrate to himself whether or not the use of leaded gasoline is a health hazard, he seems to accept some of Chandler Phillips' accusations. To assist him in making up his mind about lead, he requested information from us. He also requested that Dr. Rankin write an article on lead for a medical journal.

January 25
Afternoon
Assemblyman Rees

Assemblyman Rees was very concerned about the use of TEL in gasoline and seemed to look upon lead oxide and tetraethyl lead as one and the same. This misconception seems to be the result of implications being made by Chandler Phillips who has been using propaganda techniques with some degree of skill. Rees indicated that the citizenry had been requesting legislation to help solve the smog problem, and he said that in several instances people had mailed their credit cards back to oil companies because these companies market leaded gasoline.

Dr. Rankin, in attempting to clear up any misconceptions Rees might have about tetraethyl lead and lead oxides, gave him the complete story on the manufacturing, blending, and the use of leaded gasoline. We requested that he not quote Dr. Rankin or Du Pont. When he indicated that he might like to use this information on a TV panel discussion show.

Assemblyman Rees seemed very conscious of the political approach and seemed to be hungry for information. He quoted extensively from Chandler Phillips.

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San Francisco - Berkeley
January 26
Mr. Maga

We met with Mr. Maga alone because of the illness of Dr. Breslow, chief of the division of chronic diseases of the state department of public health. Dr. Breslow had indicated to Dr. Rankin at the Tuesday night meeting that he was keenly interested in the public health problems of lead in the atmosphere.

Maga reviewed the work of Dr. Kotin in Los Angeles on the relationship of smog and lung cancer. He also described the work on lung cancer and smog by Dr. Mills in Cincinnati. After reviewing the work being done, Maga indicated the need for much more investigation before any conclusions can be drawn.

In talking about San Francisco, Maga said the area is becoming more and more smog conscious and that an air pollution control district has now been set up in that city. While San Francisco's smog problem is not expected to reach the proportion of that in Los Angeles, Mr. Maga pointed out that industry in this area is only at the level of that in Los Angeles back in 1947. He remarked that the San Joaquin valley has severe smog possibilities if and when the area becomes heavily industrialized. Lead, he said, is not a particularly important problem at the moment.

January 27
Morning
Assemblyman Rumford

As a result of testimony by Chandler Phillips before Rumford's Committee on Public Health, Rumford seemed quite concerned about the use of leaded gasoline, and believed that leaded gasoline was illegal in Pennsylvania. He said that Phillips' testimony and demonstration provide the only information he and his committee has on lead. Rumford invited Dr. Rankin to appear before the committee, but in lieu of a public appearance suggested that a letter be written telling about tetraethyl lead and

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the difference in this product and the lead oxide emitted with exhaust gases. He too, had been lead to believe that the lead in the exhaust residue and TEL are identical. He said that while we had explained this to his satisfaction, he could not convince the committee without a written document to insert in the record. He asked whether or not we had contacted other groups interested in smog.

It was suggested that a copy of "Maintaining Hygiene in Tetra-ethyl Lead Operations" be sent to Rumford.

January 27
Lunch
Sweeney
Claussen

Both Claussen and Sweeney seemed concerned about the reactions we had gotten from the people we had met and talked with. Sweeney asked what we thought about Dr. Rankin appearing before Rumford's Committee on Public Health, and we replied this definitely should not be done. Then, he suggested a letter from Dr. Rankin to the medical profession of a question and answer type covering TEL and its relationship to smog. He said that either Du Pont or the Western Oil and Gas Association could distribute this letter to doctors. He said that the purpose of such a letter would be to reassure medical people and to give them answers for questions being asked by their patients. Sweeney said that if we decided not to send a special medical letter, we might send the doctors copies of the letter prepared for Rumford's Committee.

CONCLUSIONS:

At the end of our visit, we met with George Tyler and Brent Malin, and we all agreed that the following conclusions could be reached.

1. We should cooperate to the fullest extent possible in furnishing information to those who have requested it.

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2. We should not take any direct action to rebut Phillips, but should keep ourselves as fully informed as possible. We should supply the Western Oil and Gas Association with rebuttal material where possible.

3. In view of Phillips influence on legislative and medical people (both opinion leading groups) we should undertake or underwrite investigative work on the public health aspects of lead or products of its decomposition. One of the most important reasons for doing this is to enable Du Pont to make definite statements on these controversial issues.

4. We should provide a demonstration on smog, what is is, how it is formed and where it comes from. This will be for use by the Western Oil and Gas Association, and George Tyler would like to be consulted before anything of this nature is undertaken.

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