

Lead Industries Association

60 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

May 25, 1959
AIRMAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, Director
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
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Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

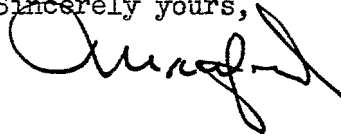
Dear Bob:

With the hope that it will reach you before you leave for your appointments here on Wednesday, I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Lyman Hunter, Vice President of Bennett's, a paint concern in Salt Lake City, and active in the affairs of the Federation of Paint and Varnish Production Clubs.

This follows and amplifies a lengthy telephone conversation on the preceding Saturday, in which Mr. Hunter, a stranger to me, stressed the distinction between the Federation, an organization of technical men, and the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, which he described as composed of sales executives. From another source, I gathered that Bennett's are pioneers in the production of colors in tubes, and that it is of prime importance to them to prove that lead chromate is relatively non toxic.

Because of its relevance to the work of the A.S.A. Z66.1 and Z37 Lead Subcommittees, I am sending copies of the letter also to the members of those groups.

Sincerely yours,



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cc: Dr. Radtke
Mr. Ziegfeld

P.S. - - Since dictating the above, I have received from Anne Baetjer a letter of which a copy is also herewith.



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May

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
60 East 42nd Street
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bowditch:

I am certainly sorry that I did not have the opportunity to visit with you when I was last in New York City. I am writing this letter to confirm our telephone conversation and to add whatever thoughts I may have had since on the subject.

First, let me explain a little of the cause of our concern in this matter. We use between 200,000 and 250,000 pounds per year of chrome yellow and molybdate orange pigments. As far as the history of the matter is concerned, most of this is handled by one man. For at least fifteen years we have had careful medical check-ups made of the man on this job, and we have never had a report of any adverse effects through handling this material.

We have been greatly concerned with the situation that seems to be developing in the Eastern part of the country. If there should be a general application of lead laws that would effectively eliminate the use of chrome yellows and molybdate oranges, this could be a very serious matter for us. The expense of changeover to an organic type of color pigment would be a very heavy one. In addition to this we have been working on this problem for several years, and we are reasonably certain that a shift to organic type color pigments would not produce products as satisfactory as those we are now making. However, all of these matters would be of very little consequence, if the type of legislation that is beginning to appear were justified. This is a point of information that we feel is very fuzzy and sketchy at the present time. There may very well be historical evidence to indicate that the old time paints made with a high lead content in the form of basic carbonate white lead, and with a linseed oil binder, were hazardous. The lead in basic carbonate white lead is a consider-

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ably more soluble form than the lead in our modern color. Also, linseed oil is a digestible fat. In fact it has been a salad oil in many central European countries. On the many of the vehicles of modern interior finishes are acids, alkalies, and a wide variety of chemicals.

It is difficult to imagine how a modern color pigment, which is resistant to acid to begin with, and is then enclosed in an enamel binder which is resistant to a wide variety of chemicals, could have old-fashioned white lead paint. Yet this point seems to have been completely overlooked in a recent grand jury investigation in Passaic County, New Jersey. I cannot be completely sure on this point since I have only a summary of what went on there in January 1959. Many of the statements that appear in this summary are such that I can agree with them completely. Nevertheless, I quote "This Grand Jury is analyzing the testimony of the expert witnesses, is convinced that lead poisoning can be caused by new as well as old paint. The age of the paint does not increase its toxicity when eaten. A freshly painted window sill or stair railing or any other subject which is accessible to the children, whether on the inside or the outside of the home may be dangerous if the paint contains lead to an excess of 1%". Certainly, the age of the paint might have very little if any influence on the toxicity of the film. The real point is that modern paints are made on an entirely different formulation, with entirely different vehicles than those used thirty or forty years ago. These modern vehicles could very easily have a very great influence on the relative toxicity of the film. These points may all have been brought out many times before, or they may not have been considered. Living as I do so far away from the Eastern section of the country I cannot tell.

I was very happy to hear that the Lead Industries Association has given some thought to the matter of setting up a program on this subject. I hope that the technical men of the paint will have an opportunity to consult with your organization matter. Also, in spite of the urgency of the matter, I be that such a program would not be set up too rapidly. To sufficient time for careful consideration and definition of the problem itself. In fact, I feel that one of the most important aspects of such a program would be definition of the problem. hazard usions that should be avoided is the matter of drawing too many conclusions too quickly from insufficient work.

It is true that what you have suggested would be a program of the Lead Industries and paid for by the Lead Industries. Nevertheless, we who are your customers must ultimately, in one way or another, pay the bill. We would also be strongly affected by the results of such

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end of the
paint industry who are well qualified with respect to education,
experience, and knowledge of film forming materials. Give us an
opportunity to consult with you and advise on this most important
matter. There will be a committee of technical men appointed shortly
to study this specific subject, and you will undoubtedly hear from
the head of the Federation about this in the near future.

Yours truly,

BENNETT'S -

Lyman P. Hunter

Lyman P. Hunter
Vice President

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