

March 17, 1938

Mr. J. P. Adoue
Shell Petroleum Company
Shell Building
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Adoue:-

Thanks very much for your letter of March 9th and also for the return of the book which has been duly received. I also have to thank you for the report of the case of Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company v. [REDACTED]. I have gone over the report of this case rather carefully and I can not find any reference in it to lead in gasoline. It appears that no claim was made of lead poisoning and it does not appear that the lead content of the gasoline was referred to as a factor in the complaint. If I am correct in this interpretation then this case is not to be regarded as a complaint directed against leaded gasoline. Rather it is a claim of an accident resulting from undue exposure to liquid gasoline. It is not up to me to interpret the law on the thing for that seems to have been done satisfactorily, but I am in agreement in principle, from a medical point of view, with the classification of this case as an accident due to exposure to gasoline. If you remember my discussion on this subject, you will recognize, I believe, that I have never said that gasoline does not produce injuries. Serious illness and death can occur from the inhalation of gasoline, and serious injury to the skin can occur both from a single serious exposure and from prolonged less serious exposure. In other words gasoline is a toxic substance which might properly be expected to give rise to claims of illness and injury. With regard to leaded gasoline, my observation and experience has failed to show me that this type of gasoline is capable of producing more serious illness or injuries than is gasoline alone. Moreover I know of no cases of injury or illness referable to lead absorption from contact or exposure to gasoline containing lead in the commercial concentrations.

Mr. J. P. Adoue

Again my thanks for your
courtesy and my assurance that it was a pleasure
to have made your acquaintance and to have been
of some slight service to you and your associates.

Cordially yours,

RAK;is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.