

November 30, 1949

Dr. Howard K. Edwards,
1714 Biscayne Boulevard,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Doctor Edwards:

I forward to you herewith two copies of the analytical results obtained on the urine and blood of six employees of Eastern Airlines. I know nothing of the status of these men, with respect to their clinical condition or the nature or duration of their employment. However, it is apparent from these results alone that no one of these men has had any significant occupational exposure to lead. All of the results are within normal limits, being just like results that would be obtained if one carried out analyses on the corresponding materials from random individuals in the normal population of ~~office~~ and professional people.

I have a copy of Doctor Kitzmiller's letter of November 29, and I wish to confirm his statement that I am heartily in favor of a comprehensive investigation of the status of your employees with respect to occupational hazards. As Doctor Kitzmiller has stated, I expect to be in Miami during the Christmas period, and if it is possible and is desirable on your part, I should be very happy to discuss with you the necessary details of our work in this connection. If there are any specific matters that I should be prepared to discuss with you, I should be glad to know of them at your convenience.

I have just noticed that copies of the analytical reports of the material obtained from a wing tank of one of your company's planes are available, and it seems best that these reports be forwarded to you for appropriate handling. A notation has come to me today through one of the representatives of Ethyl Corporation that Mr. Morris of your company has been inquiring about these results, and no doubt he will wish to be informed about them. It will be noted that the lead content of these samples is quite low. The concentration of tetraethyl lead is negligible, while the total lead content as represented by that "extractable by acid" is so low as to have little significance from the point of view of hazard. Undoubtedly if a large quantity of scale and dust, containing such a concentration of lead were to be suspended in the atmosphere it could give rise to some hazard under conditions of prolonged exposure, but the risk of lead exposure from this source is certainly not very great. It appears that some of your company's employees have been apprehensive about their exposure to lead.

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These combined results may be expected to alleviate their apprehension to a considerable degree.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK of

C.C.: Dr. K. V. Kitzmiller
Mr. R. L. Jordan
Mr. H. K. Ball

Enc.

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