

DURAND BENJAMIN, M. D.
7430 VIRGINIA AVENUE
ST. LOUIS 11, MO.
PLATEAU 2345

May 12, 1954

Dr. J. Earl Smith
Health Commissioner
City of St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Dr. Smith:

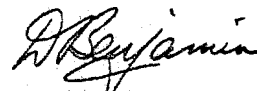
I am the plant physician for the Phelan Faust Paint Mfg. Company and as such, I periodically take specimens of blood for analysis of the lead content in individuals exposed to the possibility of lead intoxication. These specimens are collected in containers (lead free) as furnished by your department.

On 4-10-54 I took specimens of blood on Fred C. Nash and on Joseph F. Filippi. These are two young men who have been employed for less than one year at our plant and to my knowledge had no previous exposure to lead.

I received reports back on these two individuals numbered B-1259 and B-1260 respectively. On Fred Nash the report was 0.168 mg% and Joseph Filippi, the report was 0.131 mg.%. These blood levels are, of course, well above the normal levels and these individuals should have shown some signs of lead poisoning. Such findings were not present and when I considered the fact that we are using less lead in the plant than was formerly used in the manufacture of our paint, I decided to have these bloods re-checked.

I therefore contacted the Kettering Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati. This was suggested to me by Dr. Hagebusch who stated that he felt that this laboratory was probably the best in the country from the industrial standpoint. I am enclosing copies of their reports, which you will note are at considerable variance to those submitted to the City Laboratory. This letter, Doctor, is not in the nature of a complaint but rather to acquaint you with a matter with which I believe that you would wish to be acquainted.

Best regards,



Durand Benjamin, M.D.

c/c Dr. Robt. A. Kehoe
Phelan-Miss G. Pappert
encl.

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