

April 25, 1956

Mr. L. R. Fleck
Ethyl Corporation
100 Park Avenue
New York City 17

Dear Van:

I have reviewed the draft of the letter to regional and district managers to provide them with information on the problem presented by a proposal from any source to increase the permissible level of tetraethyl lead concentration in motor gasoline. I send you herewith a revision of this draft to accord with my thinking. My revision deals only with paragraph 3, which is submitted herewith, as revised. A few comments may be useful in support of the changes I have suggested.

1. It is highly important that it be recognized within Ethyl Corporation and elsewhere, that the investigation of this hygienic problem is being carried out by a responsible agency of the University of Cincinnati. I realize how easy it is to forget this and to contribute to the idea that Ethyl's Medical Department and the Kettering Laboratory are one and the same. However, this is not true in fact or in principle, and it would be injurious to Ethyl's interests if its own people were to confuse this situation in their own minds and especially in the minds of their customers or the public.
2. The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service is not "the U. S. Surgeon General." He is one of four men of that title in the U. S. Government Services (Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service). I have corrected this point of the letter.
3. The other suggestions are intended to reinforce what has been said in 1. above, or to emphasize the fact that the decision in the matter of the increase in the lead content of motor gasoline will not come easily. The decision to request a formal, official consideration of the increase will be, if it is made, a major policy decision on the part of Ethyl Corporation, and the decision to grant the request, if made by the Public Health Service, will be a major policy decision on their part. It will not be made lightly, and I cannot conceive of its being made by the Service without establishing a record that could be counted on to demonstrate that it had acted in good faith on incontestable facts. Such a decision could not be covered up, and on its publication in Public Health Reports, as it would be, the Service would be

KE 0004894

Mr. L. R. Fleck - (2) - April 25, 1956

criticized by certain persons and groups.

Our people must be clear in their own minds and convey the idea to others, that this is a matter of public policy which will be considered on its merits (not its technologic but its hygienic merits) by the United States Public Health Service. It would be most unfortunate if the impression were to be conveyed, intentionally or otherwise, that the Service might be expected to acquiesce fairly readily to a request of this type made by industry.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK:ef

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