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ORGANIC CHEMICALS DEPARTMENT
PETROLEUM CHEMICALS DIVISION

May 11, 1949

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Eden & Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

No doubt you will recall my asking about the possibility of optic atrophy resulting from lead exposure. In accordance with the thoughts expressed during our discussion on this subject I am passing on to you the information I have concerning this specific case.

Dave Priestley, Acme Steam Cleaning Service called our West Coast Office recently to discuss the possibility of lead poisoning of one of his negro laborers named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] apparently started to go blind after a series of tank cleanings, including one leaded gasoline tank which du Pont attended on June 9, 1948 and in which he worked only one hour and eighteen minutes. Priestley laid him off shortly after these cleanings because of his impairment. [REDACTED] has been going to the San Francisco Polyclinic hospital and is being treated by a Dr. A. S. Chaimov. The doctor apparently considered lead or syphilis as the etiological factor and is of the opinion that recent blood tests have eliminated the latter. [REDACTED] is almost blind now and Priestley wants to help him out and collect industrial insurance for him if he can. The address of the San Francisco Polyclinic hospital is 1535 Jackson Street, San Francisco. Their telephone number is Ordway 3-4656.

Just today I received this additional information on this case and I quote, [REDACTED] avers that he started to go blind at about time of the tank cleaning. He remembers suffering no ill effects after cleaning. He appears to be of low mentality and has trouble remembering things. Dave Priestley plans to have the insurance doctors examine him so that Richardson can collect some money if it can be proved that his impairment can be traced to work with the Acme Steam Cleaning Service."

Please advise me of any action you may take in this case as well as the subsequent developments. Awaiting your reply on this matter, I remain

Very truly yours,

S. L. Rankin

S. L. Rankin, M.D.

Medical Director

Petroleum Chemicals Division

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