

Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons
437 WEST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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Dr. R. R. Sayer,
Bureau of Mines
Washington, D.C.
Dear Dr. Sayer;

I had intended answering your letter telling of your conversation with the Surgeon- General but as you have probably noticed things broke loose in our direction. This has kept me busy all of the time and I was afraid to open my mouth for fear of being misquoted. How the World got any information is still a mystery to me tho I have tried to find out where any leak came in. I know that they have had no information from me except some questions that were asked me concerning lead poisoning in general.

I have my report about finished but am not going to deliver it to any one until I come to Washington. Of course I will deliver one to the Company just before that time. Acting on the suggestion of Dr. Thompson and several others my report will contain only a summary of my experiments and will not contain the details. I think this is wise in such a meeting for I imagine that we will not get very far as the opposing factions are too far apart. I was surprised to see a report on your work in the Newark Evening News last night and it sounded or rather had all of the ear-marks of certain members of the Company.

Dr Edgar was in town several weeks ago and seems quite in a fighting spirit. I understand that he says my tetra ethyl lead was not pure and that is the reason my results are different from theirs. Again he is harping on the evaporation tests. I can easily understand his point in this matter. I buy my gasoline from a garage up the street and add my own ~~xxxxxxx~~ lead. As to evaporation of gasoline I am up in the air. I have had gasoline that will evaporate completely in a few minutes while some I have gotten lately leaves an oily residue at the end. I have had gasoline where I get 400 cc that will evaporate in four hours and where practically all of the lead compound will evaporate at the same time. Other gasoline will not be so satisfactory. I have taken straight tetra ethyl lead and had the same experience. In fact the more I work with the material the more I am confused as to whether it is a

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real public health hazard. Meaning are our laboratory conditions comparable to commercial or industrial conditions. I am more than convinced that any skin contact will store lead over a long period of time. As to fumes I am still in the air. It seems to me that all depends on the conditions. Still I am convinced that there is some hazard, - the extent of which must be studied around garages and filling stations over a period of time and by unprejudiced persons.

Of course you must understand that my remarks are confidential. The tetra ethyl lead I used was furnished by the company.

Faithfully yours

Frederick B. F. Linn.