

December 16, 1968

Dear George:

Another matter comes to mind. When I was in England, Pat Barry called my attention to an inquiry from The British Industrial Biological Research Association (which I believe is sponsored entirely by British industrial organizations), concerning the quantities of organic compounds of bromine which may be available in the atmosphere through the incomplete combustion of the ethylene dibromide component of antiknock gasolines. Apparently an investigation of the sources of organic bromine to which people may be exposed has been initiated in Britain on the basis of the finding of organic bromine in the tissues of children. The group so engaged does not consider it likely that the source about which they inquired of Barry is important in this regard, but they wish to follow every avenue of approach to the problem. It appears to them that soft drinks may be the principal source, for what reason I have no idea.

I wonder whether this matter has been raised for any reason previously anywhere within Ethyl Corporation, and whether any information is available as to the amounts of organic bromine which might gain access to the air from unburned gasoline containing antiknock compounds. The technical people in Associated Octel have thought the question worthy of exploration in connection with their investigations of engine exhausts and other avenues of the escape of unburned gasoline from motor cars. If any information is available on this matter, I'll be interested in it. I'm not much impressed by the importance of the matter, but it may be more significant than my present knowledge would suggest.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

RAK:wp