

February 1, 1967

Dr. Stewart L. Rankin  
Dr. George Roush, Jr.

Re: Lead Studies in Petroleum Workers

You may recall that at the November meetings of the API Central Committee on Medicine and Health, Dr. R. E. Eckardt spoke briefly and with some tone of urgency about the lead problem and pointed out that the petroleum industry must take a more active interest in lead studies. The public in general and the U. S. Public Health Service in particular are paying increased attention to this problem and it would not only be discreet, but smart for the auto and petroleum industries to contribute to a better delineation of the possible problem and to suggest means of solving it. The attachments are copies of Dr. R. E. Eckardt's letter to me (as Chairman of the Committee on Clinical Practices) and certain literature on the subject. All are self-explanatory.

It would appear that the petroleum industry would be well advised to survey the health and the lead status of those employees in our various companies who work with tetraethyl lead or any other lead compounds.

Because the duPont Company and the Ethyl Corporation surveyed for many years the health of gasoline blenders in this country, it occurred to me that both of these companies might have on file considerable data that would be of value in this study.

I do not know to what extent lead determinations were done on the blood and urine of these employees, but if some were done, these results could be extremely worthwhile. If you could find a little time in the next month to look into your files and get a rough idea what information is available, it would be greatly appreciated.

By copy of this letter to Dr. Eckardt, I would like to suggest that he call a brief meeting of ourselves and any others concerned to discuss your findings and to make plans for submission to the Central Committee on Medicine and Health. The logical time and place for such a session would be sometime in March in New York City.

cc: Dr. T. E. Allen  
Dr. R. E. Eckardt

C. H. Baylor, M. D.  
Chairman - Clin. Pract. Comm.