

July 18, 1974

Mitchell R. Zavon, M.D.
Ethyl Corporation, Ethyl Tower
451 Florida Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

Dear Mitch:

I am writing to you about certain matters in which both of us are concerned, in order to avoid any possibility that you and I and Stanley Gross can get ourselves into difficulty or act at cross purposes. The necessity for attending to this at this time, arises, I may say, out of both your concern and mine for extracting the most useful information out of my unpublished and insufficiently studied investigations of past years. I propose, of course, on my own responsibility, to engage the help of Stanley Gross in getting this job done, and have discussed with Doctor Suskind the manner of doing this with the least interference with the status of Dr. Gross now and later. This entire situation is complicated, or may become complicated, by a number of factors, and it is important, therefore, that we proceed properly, both to provide you with the information which you need now and later, and also to maintain an appropriate status among ourselves. For example, it should be clearly understood that the problem of the disposition of these data in their study and publication is mine and mine alone, and that I expect to carry out much of the study, and to follow all that is done with the data, with minute and intense care. Since I am an official consultant of Ethyl Corporation, and since Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Hesselberg and I are arranging for an early meeting here, at which we expect to complete arrangements relating to my activities and those of Gross and yourself (financial matters, personal relationships and those with Kettering Laboratory), I wish to make sure that all of these matters are set up in a completely satisfactory and understandable basis. We shall, of course, lose no time, so far as the study and publication of the experimental work are concerned. As you, no doubt, will realize, the application of the results of earlier work, much of which has been published, maintains the operations of the TEL and TML manufacturing procedures in a reasonably satisfactory state, so that the experimental problems now, as in the immediate past, have little to do with the future operations of Ethyl Corporation in manufacturing and distributing the lead alkyls. Rather, we are concerned now with the matters which relate to the fate of the antiknock industry insofar as these have yet to be decided, and it is apparent to me (and I believe will be made evident by some of our unpublished work) that this matter has not been settled, nor can it be, until a somewhat different point of view prevails in U.S. Governmental circles. You may or may not agree with this, but it is nevertheless my opinion, which would have become known before now, if I had not suffered from difficulties which have delayed my activities greatly during the last three years.

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Now, you may wish to obtain some information of a different type, or on other subjects, and if this is the case, I suggest that you give me some idea as to what you have in mind. I believe that I can have a better and more effective influence upon the further work that is to be done (if you wish) in the Kettering Laboratory than can anyone else, and I do, indeed, wish to aid Ethyl and yourself in every way I can. While my eyes are horribly defective, at present, and are able to interfere greatly with my activities, I can, it seems, do anything else reasonably well, and I have every wish to do so. Incidentally, I believe now, as I have in the past, that you should be on the Staff of this Laboratory, and I feel certain that without exercising undue pressure, this can be accomplished, if you wish it, in a comparatively short time.

So much for the present. I cannot deny that I have been somewhat concerned about you seeming to avoid me in discussing with others of the Laboratory Staff, certain of the problems that present themselves at present. I'd like to make quite sure, that you and I understand each other and that never, in our individual activities, do we work at cross purposes. I am sure that I can be of considerable help to you and to Ethyl, and I wish to avoid, entirely, any difficulties between us which might lead to handicaps.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

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