

File - Pottenger

Los Angeles County Medical Association

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February 4, 1954

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine - Eden Avenue
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

The Smog Committee is very happy to learn of your intentions to make studies of the air pollution problem in Los Angeles. I will certainly be looking forward to John Phair's coming here. The members of the Committee, I assure you, will do what we can to help with your investigations.

I do believe that adequate studies of the lead problem, especially at street level, driver level, pedestrian level and at higher levels in the downtown Los Angeles area during the height of traffic would do much to dispel the idea expressed by many people that lead may be contributing to some of the smog problem. I am very glad to have your assurance on this matter and it will be reported to the Smog Committee.

You possibly have learned that Mr. Lauren Hitchcock has been appointed as President of the Air Pollution Foundation, which is headed by a Committee of 80 industrialists and business men of the Los Angeles, who have formed a corporation for the purpose of studying ways and means of eliminating smog.

Although there have been several small studies on the long and short range toxicological aspects of air pollution in this area, the only one of any significance is that of Dr. Paul Kotin on the cancer in his rats. A few studies with reference to the problems of eye irritation have been made, but there is a tremendous paucity of scientific information. The County Medical Association has taken up the cudgels in this field and feel that it is essential that adequate toxicological studies be made.

As you have possibly noted from the County standpoint, there is a great deal of politics in the administration of the Air Pollution Control District; and although all of us who have had an opportunity to really study what Colonel Larson has done feel that he has accomplished much with very little, the politicians are making the situation very bad.

Sincerely,

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Francis M. Pottenger, Jr.

Francis M. Pottenger, Jr., M.D.
Chairman of the Smog Committee