

MEMORANDUM TO: Phil E. Robinson
Lead Industries Association, Inc.

June 21, 1972

SUBJECT: Letter To EPA From Congress

Enclosed is a copy of news release and letter which was sent by 49 Congressmen to the Environmental Protection Agency recommending stronger action on lead and gasoline which you had already received in draft form from Howard Hesselberg at Ethyl.

Carl feels we should probably draft a letter to those Congressmen who have signed this stating the Lead Industries Association's views on the subject. This is something we will probably want to discuss Friday morning.

In the meantime, I have also included a copy of Lewie Gilpin's memorandum on the letter.

Best regards.

Robert A. Rogers

RAR/rs
Encs.

cc: J. F. Cole ✓
J. Smith
J. L. Kimberley

LIA-76190

UPI-71

(LEADED GASOLINE)

WASHINGTON--IN MOST MAJOR U.S. CITIES THUMB-SUCKING CHILDREN OR THOSE WHO EAT WITHOUT WASHING POSSIBLY CAN CONSUME ENOUGH DIRT TO GET SERIOUSLY ILL--ALL BECAUSE OF LEAD IN GASOLINE. FORTY-NINE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CITED THOSE POSSIBILITIES TODAY IN A LETTER URGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO STEP UP ITS PROPOSED BAN ON LEADED GASOLINES.

THE LETTER, DRAFTED BY SEN. PHILIP HART, D-MICH., SAID EPA'S GRADUAL REDUCTION PROPOSALS WOULD LEAVE LEAD LEVELS IN DIRT IN 84 TESTED AREAS OF THE NATION AT MORE THAN 500 PARTS PER MILLION AS LATE AS 1977.

"VIRTUALLY ALL RESIDUAL LEAD IN URBAN DIRT COMES FROM AUTO EXHAUSTS," HART SAID IN RELEASING THE LETTER.

6-20--TS1139AED

LIA-76191

N 868.01

The Washington Post
Tuesday, June 20, 1972

Congressmen Charge EPA Inactive on Curb

By Elsie Carper

Washington Post Staff Writer

Proposals by the Environmental Protection Agency to scale down the lead content of gasoline are inadequate to protect the health of children in major cities, 49 members of Congress said yesterday in a letter to EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus.

The letter, released by Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), urged Ruckelshaus to order the removal of all lead in gasoline no later than 1977. Hart's Environmental subcommittee has been holding hearings on the effects of airborne lead on children.

"A number of recent studies by EPA have revealed alarmingly high levels of lead in dirt," the letter said, noting that virtually all residual lead in urban dirt comes from auto exhausts.

Even with the proposed cut-back of lead in gasoline, levels

still will be sufficiently high so that children who eat even small quantities of dirt every day will get sick, the letter contended. Untreated chronic lead poisoning can result in mental retardation.

Referring to testimony before Hart's subcommittee, the letter declared that at 500 parts per million, a child can get seriously ill by ingesting one-eighth of a teaspoon of dirt daily. Normal children can consume that much dirt by thumb sucking or failing to wash before eating, according to the testimony.

Children with pica, a craving for unnatural substances, would eat far more.

The EPA announced proposed regulations last February reducing lead in gasoline from the present 2.2 grams in regular and 2.7 grams in premium gas to 1.25 grams by 1977.

LIA-76192

N 868.02

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Memo to: Robert Rogers
From: Lewie Gilpin
Subject: Hart-Ruckelshaus Lead Gas Letter

Date: June 21, 1972

Copies: C. Thompson

An assistant to Administrator Ruckelshaus at EPA tells me today he figures it will be two to three weeks before Ruckelshaus answers the June 20 letter from Senator Hart and the other 48 senators.

He points out Ruckelshaus has just returned from Europe and has not had time to pore over his accumulated mail, including the Hart letter. He thinks EPA may just "weather it out" and not even send an acknowledgement note before dispatching any full response.

"Congressional Relations will farm it out," he commented, "and I don't think there will be an answer in less than two or three weeks."



L. V. G.

/dw

LIA-76193

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