

I dare say there is nothing to be done about it but I am sending it to you so that you can be as fully advised as we are on the subject.

It is natural for a professional man to be "ruffed" at any unfavorable comments relative to his research work and I dare say Dr. Coplans, in sending the Interim Report to Professor Flinn, did it in a manner to excite as much as possible any resentment that might be naturally expected to be aroused by unfavorable comment on his findings.

My own point of view is that the less we now say about Flinn's work, the better. I think the Interim Report takes care of it in a masterly way and a controversy with him about it will only tend to aggravate conditions. If Coplans does publish this letter in England and has anything to say about it, I would ignore it completely.

I hope you are mixing a lot of pleasure and interesting side trips with your business abroad and, trusting that you and your family are enjoying the best of health, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. W. Webb

A:C

P.S. We are sending you and Mr. Maxwell a duplicate of this letter in care of Mr. Tegner, not knowing at which address it will reach you first.

CC to Mr. A. M. Maxwell
" " Mr. T. R. A. Devan

N 5804

KE 0001252

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Dr. R. W. Kehoe,

Enclosed is copy of letter we received this morning from Professor Flinn, dated the 24th inst., and copy of his letter to Dr. Meyer Coplans of the 22nd inst., together with our acknowledgment.

I assume that Dr. Coplans will continue to do everything he can to bedaddle the issue and perhaps will give publicity to this letter of Professor Flinn's.

August 27, 1938.

Handwritten notes:
① Enclosed - acknowledgment of letter of 24th inst.
② Enclosed - acknowledgment of letter of 22nd inst.
③ Enclosed - acknowledgment of letter of 24th inst.
④ Enclosed - acknowledgment of letter of 22nd inst.

632 West 168th Street, New York

Institute of Public Health

At

Ethyl Gasoline Corp.

25 Broadway

New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter
Dr. Copland of England that will explain itself
being rather tired of being misunderstood in the

Yours truly

(Signed) Frederic

KE 0001253

Dr. M eyer Coplans
3, The Approach
Hendon, London
England.

Dear Doctor Coplans:

I want to thank you for the copy of
of the Departmental Committee on Ethyl Petrol in which
mentioned.

I have never published a report or a
tetra ethyl except the one appearing in the Journal of
of which I sent you a reprint at your request. Some one
misrepresenting my position on this matter and I would
much if you will call the attention of the Committee to

At the Conference called by the Surgeon
May 19, 1925 I made a verbal statement of my observations
remarks were taken down by the stenographer at that time
included in the printed report of the Conference. At no
article did I suggest that an official investigation be
was called because of the unfortunate newspaper article
the suggestion of the various health agencies with which
In February 1925 in response to a letter from the Surgeon
as to the results of the experiments carried on by the
Dr. Kehoe and myself independently agreed as to the final
to hold conferences at the Bureau of Mines from time to
reason I did not think it would be necessary to conduct
experiments but suggested that the U.S. Public Health Service
observations on the men around the filling stations in
Columbia and Maryland, where ethyl petrol had been sold
and that if these men showed no indication of a lead exposure
depend on that observation than on animal experiments in
difficult to duplicate the industrial exposures.

It is not stated in the reports noted
in the dust of the garages in which the men examined were
ethyl petrol and those not using it. That the men examined
lived in a community in which lead is commonly found in
That the government employees also were exposed to water
of course as your own Dr. Legge has said our battery plants
hazards. We have found lead in only 6% of 500 stools of
patients with no industrial exposure to lead, and in each case
we were able to trace back either previous or present exposure

KE 0001254 N 5804.02

profession.

The tetra ethyl lead hazard is a matter of great extent and rules have been laid down that should be observed. I think the filling station men should be putting their hands into it and that it should not be used for cleaning purposes as I have known it to have been done in many instances in this country by ignorant men. I am willing to make my statements that lead is absorbed through the skin from petrol but the question arises as to whether or not a man has been equally hazardous. I refer of course to the man who drinks it. I recently found lead on cabbages that had been shipped from California. They had probably been sprayed with arsenate of lead which washed off by rain. If you want to demonstrate quickly that lead is absorbed through the petrol, suspend the hind quarters of an albino rat in tetra ethyl petrol for several hours, kill and skin the animal and examine the carcass. This is an experiment performed by Dr. Kehoe at a conference which I attended. For a long time I doubt if lead is absorbed through the skin but I am thoroughly convinced that of course you must remember that most of the petrol evaporates and this may leave behind the lead in the form of tri-ethyl lead needles and this compound is not absorbed. Some of this has been found around a filling station but the chances are again small. The surroundings are usually wet and there are chances of lead in the water. I feel that we must use common sense in discussing industrial hazards and having recognized them from our experiments analyze them in view of the actual conditions in the industry.

I know Dr. Leake personally and have confidence in his work. I was in hopes that your committee would report to the Bureau of Mines on exhaust gas for no one has confirmed that such work should be repeated, no matter who did it. I have reasons and especially in this case where there have been many questions questioned some of the work.

Again thanking you for the copy of the report that you will send me the rest when they come out,

I am,

Very truly yours,

Frederick I.

KE 000

Professor Frederick B. Flinn,
College of Physicians and Surgeons,
Institute of Public Health,
632 W. 168th Street,
New York City.

My dear Professor Flinn:

We appreciate your courtesy in
a copy of your letter of the 22nd inst. to Dr.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours

A:G

KE 0001256