

Inter-Office Correspondence

September 1, 1954

To: Messrs. E. Bartholomew, R. A. Kehoe, W. G. Lovell, J. B. Macauley, R. K. Scales

AIR POLLUTION: INFORMATION SERVICE

You are all well aware of the current interest in air pollution in relation to fuels and engines. In view of this, I agreed to collect and coordinate information on the subject. It was recognized that our men who have outside contacts might be put in a position where they would have to make some comment, and it was felt that they should have available a background of reliable information and policy.

It now seems in order to review briefly what has been and is being done by the Staff group along this line, and to consider whether this coordinates well with the other activities of the Laboratory in this connection.

Information has been collected from a variety of sources, reviewed and assembled in a file. The sources include: (1) previous publications; (2) reports from the A.P.I. program via Charlie Gambrill, and from the CRC program via Jack Macauley; (3) current periodicals, by a clipping service from the Information Division (as a by-product of John Lane's regular work), by a subscription to the Los Angeles Times, and by the helpful cooperation of John Howard, the Rover Boys, and others; and (4) contacts from time to time with Bob Kehoe, John Campbell, and others. It has been arranged that Homer Tanner, in charge of the general file on air pollution at Baton Rouge, will be kept supplied with copies of as much of this material as seems called for.

The subject of publicity relating to TEL was discussed with Jim Boudreau's staff and others in New York. At their urgent request, Bob Kehoe and I are preparing a brief written statement for their information and allowable use in an "emergency." Apart from the article in Time, we have so far done very well in keeping TEL out of the picture.

Along the same line, last April in California I made cautious contacts with Hitchcock, Haagen-Smit, and McGill, both to sound them out and to explain our relationship to Dr. Kehoe and his position as our spokesman. At other technical meetings also, inquiries as to our interest etc. were received and given suitable reply.

Locally, the Technical Service group has been kept informed as to what is going on, and various information has been supplied to Messrs. Macauley, Hirschler, and Gilbert in connection with their CRC activity. Some time has been spent in studying the technical aspects of lead and other components in exhaust gas, with the hope of being able to contribute something in support of our experimental program. One suggestion has been made along this line, relating to the possible effect of TEL on the amount of oxides of nitrogen.


H. A. Beatty