

October 29, 1940

Mr. Leon T. Sewell
Hughes, Little & Sewell
Wainwright Building
Bute and Duke Streets
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Mr. Sewell:

We have gone over Dr. Martin's report and would like to comment as follows with reference to the case of [REDACTED]

We have seen a number of cases of tetraethyl lead intoxication with encephalopathy, but have not seen any that have suffered permanent damage. Eight or ten weeks may be required for recovery in severe cases, but no residual symptoms or evidences of damage have been seen in any of the men that we studied. In fact we have data on a group of fourteen patients that were poisoned with tetraethyl lead in 1925, since which time they have continued at work in the manufacturing operation and have been under monthly medical supervision since the time of their poisoning, as have all the other men in the plant. In this group there was no evidence of subnormality or physical damage at any time since 1925.

We are therefore of the opinion that while recovery from tetraethyl lead poisoning may require two or three months, the recovery from acute illness is not associated with any evidences of permanent damage or persistent symptoms. On the other hand, each case must be considered individually and if persistent symptoms and physical findings like those seen during the acute illness are found, they may be considered to be adequate evidence of residual damage. Unfortunately, in Jordon's case there are no persistent physical findings, there being only mental symptoms which are related to the original intoxication. Furthermore, there is present a hypertension and a noteworthy degree of anemia. Since acute lead intoxication is known to cause anemia, and in the absence of any other information, may be considered to have caused anemia in the case of Jordon, this should be treated and furthermore, Jordon should receive treatment and care for his high blood pressure. All of our past experience leads us to believe that if a little more time is allowed and proper treatment is given, this man's symptoms will disappear, if they are related at all to his previous lead

KE 0021012

Mr. Leon T. Sewell - (2) - October 29, 1940

intoxication. On the other hand if they do not disappear, some other cause should be searched for.

There is no question about [REDACTED] having had acute lead intoxication for which he should be compensated, but it would be improper to award him compensation for symptoms which may be due to other causes and which may be permanent in character. The important point here, therefore, is to decide whether or not these specific symptoms can be directly related to the intoxication and this we would be in a much better position to give an answer to after we had examined the patient ourselves. This we will be quite willing to do for you. We believe, however, it would be better to make some arrangements for Jordon to have treatment for his anemia and hypertension and allow a little more time to elapse under treatment. If at the end of that time Dr. Martin is not satisfied with his progress, if you will let us know, we will make some arrangement to see Jordon.

Very truly yours,

WM:vr

Willard Machle, M. D.