

April 29, 1969

P.S.I. Barry, M.D.
The Associated Octel Company Limited
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
England

Dear Pat:

I am returning to you, under separate cover, the two documents of ILZRO, minus the correspondence which I attach to this letter (since I can return the documents alone by air mail at a reduced rate).

The proposal of the Stanford Research group is, I think, a good one, and while it is expensive to carry out, the answer to the questions raised will be useful regardless of the outcome. I think it likely that it will be found that the ultimate degree of the contamination of the earth by the lead in the exhausts of automobiles will not be alarmingly great. It seems likely that the wide spread of the seemingly large amount of lead will result in a low level of contamination, and that the return of this to the earth and the seas will not create much of a problem soon, perhaps ever. It would seem not to be an irreversible contamination. Anything which will contribute to our better understanding of the process will be very helpful in looking into the future.

I have gone over the paper of Ralph Smith once, and I'll do so again and jot down some notes to you, and also to Jerry Cole if he wants them. (I've written to him to say that I'd like copies of this report and of the Stanford proposal, and have indicated that I would comment on the Ralph Smith's report, if he wishes). Smith's report does not, in fact, contribute much, and the calculations of lead intake from various sources are much too uncertain to be of any use. I think he is correct in concluding that there was some accumulation of lead in the skeletons of the exposed animals in the course of the experiment. It was gratifyingly slight, and from this confirmation of expectations, it is useful information. I would not give it much weight as evidence relevant to human experience, but I'm glad he made the observations. I advised him to do so when he asked for my opinion of the probable usefulness of the data. It would have been a dubious oversight to have neglected the opportunity afforded by the availability of the surviving animals. You will hear from me shortly on the merits of this report.

Let me say that it was a pleasure to see you again and to have a chance to talk with you. Your traveling companion was not a great benefit to you on this trip, I'm sure, but you did him a great favor, I believe, and handled the situation very well. I was amply rewarded, if I may be so crass as to make mention of the baseball game in the astrodome, as his guest. It was a remarkable spectacle, and although the slaughter was not in the Roman manner, it was a thrill in that dramatic stadium.

Do give my regards to Anne, and tell her that both Mrs. Kehoe and I are anticipating her company to Australia with real pleasure. With best regards,

Sincerely,

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