

July 28, 1956

Mr. Jesse Lieberman, Chief
Industrial Sanitation Section
Department of Public Health
Division of Air Pollution Control
and Environmental Sanitation
Room 630, City Hall Annex
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Lieberman:

I have moved as rapidly as I could to reply to your letter of July 3rd because of the nature of the case on which you asked for my opinion. Unfortunately I have been hard pressed, and my correspondence has suffered.

The situation which you have described, with respect to the child's toys is not unusual. We have nearly a score of such cases annually in Cincinnati, and this is true of other similar communities in which there are adequate case-finding and diagnostic facilities. It is a reasonable and almost certain conclusion that this child contracted lead poisoning within his own home from the toys or other sources, including surfaces painted with lead-containing paints. If the foundry contributed to this at all - and this is mentioned only for the sake of completeness - it did so by depositing lead-particles on the floor, window-sills, etc., of the home. If it was not handling lead-containing alloys - and no aluminum foundry has reason to do so, so far as I know - it made no such contribution.

The contribution made by the soil outside the home was negligible if not altogether zero. It would be utterly fantastic to attribute any appreciable hazard to this factor, in the face of the commonness of the occurrence of lead poisoning from the other cause.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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