

February 8, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. R. E. Rowley,
Bureau of Light and Power,
222 South Hill Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Rowley:

I have received information through Mr. C. D. Lowry, Jr., of Universal Oil Products Company, of Chicago, to the effect that army troops training in the California desert are having difficulties in burning leaded gasoline in their cook-stoves. Inasmuch as this problem is developing elsewhere, it is of considerable importance that the facts be clearly established, and therefore, I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to follow the matter up.

I think there is no secret in the fact that a special stove has been designed for the use of the Army where only leaded fuel can be had. If such stoves are not available, unleaded fuel should be used. However, if the circumstances are such that leaded fuel has been used in ordinary stoves, we should learn as much as possible about the difficulties, since there is no doubt that this situation will have to be met both by our armed forces and those of our allies. (I rely upon your judgment as an army consultant to exercise such discretion as may be necessary in the use of any information I may give you that has not been generally released. It may not be possible to supply stoves of special design within this country. I believe they are intended primarily for outgoing units, in the anticipation that unleaded fuel is available throughout continental U.S.A. I should not wish to precipitate a demand for equipment that may not be had.)

I particularly want to know something about the following points: -
(a) What technical difficulties have occurred, and what has been done about them? (b) What length of time has been involved in the use of these stoves with leaded fuel? (c) What have been the conditions with respect to the exposure of individuals and groups of persons, to the fumes or to contaminated food, - that is, what provisions have been made for ventilation to carry away fumes, and what precautions, if any, are taken to prevent the contamination of food from direct or indirect contact with the combustion

KE 0009606

Mr. R. E. Hawley - (2) - February 8, 1943

products? (d) Has there been any fear of being poisoned on the part of exposed persons, and have there been any cases of illness that aroused suspicion of poisoning?

I realize that these questions may be unfair in relation to your experience, but they are questions that are bound to be raised in this connection and we should obtain the answers if possible. With the idea in mind that you may wish to aid or be aided in the investigation of these matters, I am sending a copy of this letter of Mr. S. M. Wagner, Division Manager of the Ethyl Corporation in Los Angeles, asking him to get in touch with you and to give you every assistance in obtaining this information. It should be possible to make such arrangements as will provide unleaded gasoline for use if necessary. I think Mr. Wagner could be helpful in this connection. But it should also be possible to capitalize on this situation as a source of guidance for the future. I shall appreciate greatly any assistance or information you may be able to give on this highly important matter.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

C. C. Mr. S. M. Wagner,
Ethyl Corporation,
977 W. Sixth Street,
Los Angeles, California.

KE 0009607

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