

Memo to Dr. Kehoe

Lead investigator for the official report  
from the U.S. Public Health Service

Doctors Hyman (physician) and Schrenk (hygiene engineer) are coming on Monday to talk about Donora project. Cholak has all the dope necessary to make plans with Schrenk. Hyman wants to see me and Dutra. I'll be out of town.

I suggest that we stick to the plan already outlined to cooperate with them as far as possible but to refuse to make guesses. My assumption that it was a gas which was hydrolyzed in the lung and produced its pathology some little time after it was inspired is based on a very superficial check on the clinical picture as seen by two doctors and two patients and one posted case which may or may not be representative.

If they go ahead and make a first class epidemiological survey which will clearly define the clinical picture and either they, the Donora Medical Society (Dr. Hannigan, Pres.) or we get some more autopsies, we can have a very reasonable hope of limiting the probable causes to a very few gases. The surveys planned by Cholak to be coordinated with and supplemented by surveys Schrenk plans to make will fill the gaps.

I think it would be wise to refuse to let them know what our guesses are because there has already been too much wild guessing (Mills -  $H_2SO_4$ , Stadler - HF, Stang -  $SO_2$ ).

If posts are to be done, I hope it will be possible to select which ones are to be done from the data analysis now being made by Dr. David (U.S.P.H.S.) and that they be done by Dutra. Dr. Ramsey who did the first one is wholly in accord with this plan.

Please impress upon Hyman the necessity of knowing the time limits of the onset of cases. It may have been limited to a period beginning on Friday and ending before the smog let up; also the necessity of making certain about the chronology of symptoms and the presence or absence of eye and upper respiratory tract irritation. Three doctors, one a pathologist, insist that there was none of the latter.

H.F.A.

cc: Mr. Cholak  
Dr. Dutra