

LABORATORY  
SEP 14 1960

c.c. Mr. R. G. Wade (2) ✓  
c.c. J. deSouza & R. Rice (1)

COPY  
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London, S.W. 1

WDA/JRW/LAD

12th September, 1960.

Private & Confidential

L. C. Laporte, Esq.,  
P.O. Box 1500,  
MONTREAL 30

My dear Leo,

You will recall the Neukorn/Bonnet Process for the extraction of tobacco with a chlorinated hydrocarbon - there is a patent on this subject - and you will remember that they claim not only a reduction in total tar of the order of 20%, but a reduction in neutral tar of 50% and a reduction in aliphatic tar of 50 to 60% (incidentally, they also claim that the reduction in nicotine in the smoke is only of the order of 3 - 5%, but this seems manifestly wrong and anyway is unimportant to us at the moment).

Dr. Neukorn is working very hard with the aid of a publicity agent, articles in the press and a programme on television, to induce the Swiss Manufacturers' Association to make use of his process and at the same time endorse his claims. So far we have been unable to submit our tobacco to his process in his machine, but we have had a very small sample (20 cigarettes) of tobacco treated by him and our main conclusions are:-

1. His cigarette, although equally well filled, contains 11% less tobacco (this is a further interesting example of the filling power increase brought about by solvent extraction. Have you applied for your patent yet?).

(2).....

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B. J. Roberts, Esq.

12th September, 1960

2. The reduction in total tar amounted to 12%, almost exactly balancing the change in weight.
3. As far as we would like to go at the moment, neutral tar and aliphatic tar were decreased to about the same amount. However, there was some indication that both might have been reduced to a slightly greater extent, say 20%, but our sample was really too small for us to decide conclusively.

So far as we can ascertain, the solvent used was Methylene Chloride. Remembering that your own experiments with Hexane extraction resulted in a tar reduction of the order of 20% and that you found no preferential reduction in B.P. content, I see no reason to expect the Neumann/Donnet Process to do differently. Nevertheless, I should like you, if you are willing and could act quickly, to repeat your work, this time using Methylene Chloride and ascertaining: (1) weight loss, (2) tar reduction and (3) B.P. reduction. If you wish to measure nicotine reduction and increase in filling power, these would be interesting but not, from my immediate point of view, essential.

Neumann and Donnet's method is to spray the cut tobacco rag with Methylene Chloride on a travelling band and in a counter-current fashion. I believe the extraction rate is 2 to 3%. For this purpose your original "dunking" procedure would seem to be quite adequate.

I hope that you will be able to do this for us, but will quite understand if your present commitments or circumstances make it impossible. My reason for asking is, of course, that your B.P. analysis using radioactive material is way ahead of ours, both in accuracy and in the length of time required. I also believe that you are geared for quick evaluation of this sort. I hope that I am right! I know that I do not have to stress the important use of this to us and hope that you will help.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Hugh

*R. J. Roberts (A)*  
*of J. A. Lange & R. Roberts (1)*

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