

Invisible Gases, Fumes Cited in L.A. Smog Peril

Invisible gases and fumes are more serious elements in smog than visible smoke or vapors, according to a report from Dr. A. J. Haagen-Smit of California Institute of Technology, made public today by the Pure Air Committee of Los Angeles, a non-profit corporation created by volunteer citizens to survey the problem of air pollution in the metropolitan district.

"To the layman," asserts Dr. Haagen-Smit in his report, "the visible smoke from an automobile exhaust seems most important, and everyone is familiar with the nuisance of driving behind cars, buses, and Diesel trucks that leave trails of smoke. Although objectionable, the visible smoke is not as important as the invisible, unburned gasoline which leaves the exhaust.

"It has been shown that gasoline, when present in the air, is changed by air and sunlight into products which cause the typical smog effects: eye irritation, crop damage, unpleasant odor, and haze."

Dr. Haagen-Smit estimates that automobile exhaust vapors pour approximately 800 tons of pollutants into the atmosphere of the Los Angeles area daily, or the equivalent of 250,000 gallons of gasoline. The petroleum industry, in refining and distribut-

ing operations, add a like amount of injurious "chemical sewage" to the air.

Both technical and legal remedies for this source of smog are being examined by the Pure Air Committee in its weekly sessions.

The committee finds, according to J. Gustav White, chairman, that co-operation of the individual owners of the more than

two million automobiles in Los Angeles County is going to be essential to the effectiveness of any remedy whatever. Better mechanical maintenance of automotive engines, and especially of carburetion, is urged. The committee is also studying the availability of a new type of exhaust muffler which is said to eliminate all noxious fumes, and which might conceivably be a required accessory on all cars and trucks if found economically feasible.

In this connection the smog problem also links itself with the transportation problem of the metropolitan area, according to Dr. Haagen-Smit, who urges more economical use of gasoline as important, through radical revision of the transportation system, promotion of less interrupted traffic flow by expansion of the freeway arteries, and more systematic encouragement of "share-the-ride" programs.

Kuchel to Be USC Founders Day Speaker Tomorrow

U.S. Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel will speak at his alma mater, the University of Southern California tomorrow at SC's annual Founder's Day Convocation.

His topic in Bovard auditorium at 10 a.m. will be "Private Universities as a Bastion of Free Enterprise." President Fred D. Fagg Jr. of SC will preside.

Senator Kuchel entered SC from Anaheim High School in 1928 and was graduated with honors with a degree of Bachelor of Arts from the college of letters, arts and sciences in 1932. He then earned the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the SC school of law in 1935.

Founders' Day commemorates the opening of SC in 1880.

Mental Health Meet

The second quarterly meeting of Executives for Mental Health, a new organization comprised of Los Angeles businessmen whose object is to study and work for the emotional and mental health of individuals especially as it affects business and industry, will be held tonight at 8 at the Chapman Park Hotel.