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Asks inquiry on smog at Bethlehem

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn today asked the county-wide Citizens Committee on Air Pollution to determine whether smog control officials are enforcing the law at the Bethlehem Steel Corp. plant.

In a letter to Stephen W. Royce, Pasadena hotel man and chairman of the committee, Hahn said it is "my personal opinion that too many variances and delays have been granted with the result that the air is still being polluted to a very marked degree" in the Maywood area.

The committee, composed of representatives of all cities and unincorporated communities of the county, was formed last month on recommendation of the Board of Supervisors to work with smog control officers.

Hahn enclosed a stack of correspondence in which smog officials had explained what has been done to eliminate smoke and fumes at Bethlehem, and told Royce:

"I would like your committee to review this case and see if you believe that the air pollution control laws are being properly enforced.

"If you and other members of the committee would drive by and look at this particular plant, you could see from the street the condition that exists."

Meanwhile, the Pure Air Committee, another anti-smog organization, began operations on two fronts after a meeting yesterday in the Rosslyn Hotel.

One committee started a study of the Harbor steam plant as a possible violator, and another prepared to confer tomorrow with air pollution control director Gordon Larson to get some facts about smog.

Dr. Ray Allen Young of the Pure Air Committee suggested at the meeting that "diagnostic shut-downs" of industry be enforced to determine their contributions to smog.