

CONTACT REPORT

See 10-15-53

Company: Automobile Manufacturers Association, Detroit, Michigan
Place: Telephone
Date: October 13, 1953
Report by: C. M. Gambrill

On Tuesday morning, October 13, Mr. George A. Gaudaen of the Automobile Manufacturers Association, Detroit, phoned me to inquire about the Houdry catalyst unit for attachment to automobile exhausts to remove lead. I was advised that the Wall Street Journal had published recently an article on this subject in which the comment was made that Dr. Houdry had developed a new type catalyst which effectively removed lead from the exhaust of automobile engines. I was also advised that Dr. Gordon P. Larson, Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District, had one of these units which was presently undergoing critical test.

In the course of the conversation Mr. Gaudaen mentioned a recent meeting held in Los Angeles which was not attended by any of the automobile manufacturers because of too late a notice. The minutes of that meeting, he said, adversely criticize the automobile industry for lack of interest because of non-attendance.

Because of these adverse criticisms, an industry group was being established to formulate replies to inquiries and if deemed advisable, to initiate some studies. A meeting of this group was to be held the afternoon of Tuesday, October 13. He would like, if possible, that the writer attend this meeting. On further discussion of this request with Dr. J. B. Ligett and Dr. H. A. Beatty, it was decided that Ethyl should not be represented at this meeting, but should clear these matters through Dr. R. A. Kehoe for final decision. Those expected at the meeting included:

Mr. John Campbell (General Motors Research)
Mr. J. Capinjola and Mr. Chandler (Ford)
Mr. Beckman and Mr. Harriman (Chrysler)
Mr. Bald (Hudson)
Mr. Forrester (Packard)
Mr. Nagler (Nash)

CMG/mhl 10-15-53

C. M. Gambrill
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cc: J. B. Ligett (att)
J. B. Macaulay (att)
H. A. Beatty "
✓ R. A. Kehoe "

Att. Wall Street Journal Article

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AUTO, TRUCK MUFFLER DESIGNED TO REMOVE
CARBON MONOXIDE GAS

Oxy-Catalyst, Inc., Expects to Place Item on Market Before
End of Year; May Cost About \$50

By a Wall Street Journal Staff Reporter

CHICAGO - An engine muffler that removes odors and dangerous carbon monoxide from automobile and truck exhaust gases has been developed by Oxy-Catalyst, Inc., Eugene J. Houdry, president revealed here.

Mr. Houdry, who spoke to the National Metal Decorators Convention, said the device will be placed on the market before the end of the year. "If it can be produced in large quantities, it can be sold for less than \$50," Mr. Houdry said.

About 2,000 of the units, which utilize a catalyst to transform carbon monoxide into harmless carbon dioxide gas, are in use on fork lift trucks and other factory vehicles. However, Mr. Houdry said, these units are used with engines burning unleaded gasoline. A special type of catalyst had to be devised for use with the leaded gasoline burned by modern road vehicles.

The muffler will be the same size and shape as conventional mufflers and can be adapted to any type of car, Mr. Houdry said. It will remain effective as long as the car lasts, he said. The company is also working on a unit for use with diesel engines. Mr. Houdry expects this device to be perfected by spring.

Mr. Houdry said, "Too few of us realize the menace in the air. The air we breathe can be lethal because we have made it that way. Every city in the nation is, to some degree, threatened seriously in terms of property damage, destruction of health and even death."

He said polluted air has been blamed for allergies and eye, skin, lung and throat ailments and, just recently, cancer of the lungs. Property damage from polluted air amounts to as much as \$5 billion a year, he said.

Such sources as motorists' exhausts, incinerators, heating and cooking stoves and other devices operated by the public are responsible for much of the dangerous fumes with the rate about 50% in Los Angeles Mr. Houdry said.

Mr. Houdry, best known for his development of the catalytic cracking process for refining gasoline, recently developed another catalytic device, the Oxycat, for use in eliminating dangerous industrial gases. The muffler is an outgrowth of that development.
