

County of Los Angeles

Air Pollution Control District

5201 Santa Fe Avenue

Los Angeles 11

LOUIS C. MCCABE
DIRECTOR

KIMBALL 2172
FILE NO.

March 8, 1949

Mr. H. G. Dyktor, Commissioner
Division of Air Pollution Control
1404 East Ninth Street
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dyktor:

In general I am in accord with your draft of the report of the American Medical Association Committee on Atmospheric Pollution. However, there are a few changes that I would suggest.

I have in my notes the statement: "Health hazards need not be demonstrated to establish the need for air pollution control", which I believe we agreed upon in Chicago. I suggest that it be added as a second sentence in Paragraph 4.

It is my impression that we need not stress to the extent of paragraph 7 the need for procedures for sampling and assessment of dustfall, aerosols and gases in the atmosphere. I am reasonably well satisfied with the techniques that are already available. Specifically we are using the modified Cascade impactor, the electrostatic precipitator, the freeze-out train, the thermal settling chamber, and the electronic microscope in the investigation of air pollution. Paragraph 8 to my way of thinking expresses the situation very effectively. I suggest that paragraph 7 be deleted.

Isn't there a typographical error in paragraph 12? The statement is made that an air pollution control program should " - - - apprise the community of the fact that elimination of air pollution is economically impracticable." In paragraph 1 we say "Air pollution means the excessive concentration of foreign matter in the atmosphere which may adversely affect the well-being of the individual or cause damage to property." My reaction is that if we define air pollution as the excessive concentration of foreign matter, that we should not say that it is economically impracticable to eliminate it. I feel that if this statement were released to the public the reaction would be that we are saying that nothing can be done which would be a most unfortunate impression to leave.

It is certainly desirable that municipalities should "eschew political considerations" as you suggest in paragraph 13 but I wonder, this being an imperfect world, whether they will do so. Perhaps it is all right to set it as a goal to be attained.

Mr. H. G. Dyktor, Commissioner
Division of Air Pollution Control

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Dr. R. T. Johnstone told me this morning on the telephone that he plans to further define the medical position. I would like to see us encourage some serious research into this question of the physiological effect of air pollution. Such work by reputable medical foundation or the United States Public Health Service would remove a great deal of confusion and backbiting. The country can well afford to support such work and I believe it would be a credit to the American Medical Association to sponsor it.

I am enclosing a copy of the program of the American Chemical Society Symposium on Atmospheric Contamination and Purification which will come off in San Francisco on March 28 and 29. I urge you to attend if it is at all possible. I have had letters indicating that Great Britain and South Africa will send a representative.

I again extend my sympathies for your recent bereavement and I hope that the duties of your office have not been overburdensome as a result.

Sincerely yours,

Louis C. McCabe
Director

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cc Each member of Committee

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