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Du Pont MSS
Public Affairs Dept Subj. Files
(Acc. No. 1410)
Box 50

May 10, 1960

Mr. Rene Bender
Petroleum Week
330 West 42nd Street
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Bender:

While we have not issued a formal press release, we have received several inquiries in the last few days concerning our work on an anti-smog catalyst for removing impurities in automotive exhaust gases.

Here, for your information or whatever use you may wish to make of it, is the statement we have issued in answer to these inquiries.

Sincerely,

George Caldes

GC H
Enc.

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SOURCE: The New York TIMES, May 6th issue

"AWAY WITH SMOG"

The Studebaker-Packard Corporation and E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., have jointly developed an anti-smog exhaust filter, it was learned yesterday. A spokesman for Studebaker said that the new device would be in production this fall and would be used on some of the 1961 models as original equipment.

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The Du Pont Company has developed a catalyst which, according to early tests, may be useful in air pollution abatement by reducing many impurities in automotive exhaust gases.

Du Pont also is conducting research on experimental auto exhaust devices which will utilize this catalyst. Development of the catalyst was the result of an intensive joint effort by the company's Industrial and Biochemicals Department and the Petroleum Chemicals Division. The research work was conducted at the company's Belle, W. Va., Works, near Charleston, and at the Petroleum Laboratory of the Organic Chemicals Department, Deepwater Point, N.J. Experimental quantities are being produced at the Belle Works. The Du Pont Company has been engaged in catalyst research for more than 30 years because of the use of catalysts in many of the company's processes.

At the present time, systems using the Du Pont catalyst are still in the experimental stages. Du Pont has provided samples of the catalyst to the Automobile Manufacturers Association, which is coordinating the auto industry's program in the auto exhaust field. Among companies who have received sample quantities is the Studebaker-Packard Corp., which was designated by the A.M.A. to conduct tests with the Du Pont catalyst. Whether the catalyst under development by Du Pont will be commercialized will not be known until the completion of tests now underway by the auto industry and in Du Pont laboratories.

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Comments on the New York "Times" Article - 5/6/60

1. "Studebaker-Packard and Du Pont have jointly developed..."

Comment - This is not a joint development program in the usual sense. Du Pont developed a catalyst. Then the catalyst and device design data were offered for testing to the A.M.A., which is coordinating the auto industry's program in this field. A.M.A. asked Du Pont to work with Studebaker on the testing of this catalytic system since other companies were working with other systems. We also have provided samples, and data to other auto companies at the request of the A.M.A.

2. "anti-smog exhaust filter..."

Comment - The Du Pont system is not a filter but a catalytic converter.

3. "The new device would be in production this fall and would be used on some of the 1961 models as original equipment."

Comment - This is not Du Pont's understanding (1961 models). Much testing and engineering work remains to be done. It is very likely to be late 1960 or early 1961 before the system meets Du Pont and auto industry standards. There is a possibility this system may never prove commercially satisfactory. Thereafter the system must be approved by the California Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, following their tests.

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5-9-60