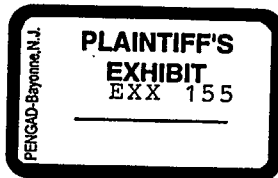


PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

October 19, 1955

TO: D. M. Cox

FROM: E. M. Hattox



*Mayor's Meeting*

*X General*

I called Dr. F. W. West this morning to chat with him concerning the meeting which Mayor Webb held yesterday relative to "smog" and pollution in the Baton Rouge area. Apparently the get-together was an informal one and was held at that particular time because Dr. J. T. Goodwin, Jr., was in town to give a talk at the meeting of the local section of the American Chemical Society last night. Dr. Goodwin is associated with the Midwest Research Institute which is now doing research work for the Air Pollution Foundation of Los Angeles.

I got the impression in talking with Dr. West that Miss DuBois was instrumental in getting the group together and that Dr. West was invited because of the work he is now doing on the Mississippi River Bridge problem. Present at the meeting besides the Mayor was Dr. Goodwin, Dr. West, Miss DuBois, and I believe possibly some member of the parish legal staff. I did not learn whether anyone else was present. Apparently Miss DuBois and the Mayor were interested in what, if any, ordinances should be passed in order to control the pollution problem in Baton Rouge and wished the opinion of Dr. West and Dr. Goodwin on that subject. They both suggested that it was not advisable to draw up ordinances to attempt to control pollution. They felt that insufficient data were available to define the problem, if any, or to permit drafting an ordinance which would be of any value in controlling pollution. Dr. Goodwin apparently told the group that what has been done or proposed in Los Angeles and other areas would not necessarily be of any value or significance in the Baton Rouge area. Apparently these statements satisfied everyone concerned.

The rest of the discussion dealt with a possible voluntary meeting of representatives from all industries in Baton Rouge to discuss the situation in general and to determine what steps might be taken to minimize air pollution without the use of legal means.

Based on statements made at the meeting the City-parish government is of the opinion that Esso and Ethyl are not contributing significantly to atmospheric pollution in the Baton Rouge area. It was indicated that gentle hints have already been given to Kaiser and Ideal Cement regarding the volume of contaminants coming from their plants. One sidelight was that apparently a couple of months ago the Mayor had a personal experience when some fine dust settled out on his house from a plume from one of the local industries.

Concluding the meeting, the Mayor indicated he would probably ask Mr. Voorhies or Clint Bond to try to organize a meeting with all industries represented to just sit down and talk the situation over. He apparently had in mind that both large and small industries should be included in these discussions and that the discussions should include a review of: (1) what the situation now is, (2) what is being done now, and (3) what can be done in the future to afford greater protection from the contaminants in the air.

E.Hattox:jm

(I learned from Frank Johnson that Dr. Goodwin is a consultant for Ethyl and was obtained for the ACS talk through that channel.)