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N.J. Air pollution CO mission.

Air Pollution in New Jersey
A Report to the State Legislature
April 23, 1951

On April 12, 1950 a joint resolution was passed by the State Senate and House creating a commission charged with the responsibility of studying air pollution in New Jersey and recommending legislation to deal with the problems in that field. The commission was also requested to make a report on the assignment to the present session of the legislature.

During the 9 month period the commission has been organized it has discussed air pollution with representatives of the State Departments of Health and Labor and Industry, The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and representatives of industry.

These discussion meetings have confirmed the widespread belief that air pollution problems exist in the state and that industry is generally striving to lessen or correct these problems.

The term air pollution in its broadest sense, includes any air pollutant whether it be toxic fumes; smoke; dust from any source; aromas, obnoxious or otherwise; pollens; noise; or other causes. In the deliberations of the commission only those air pollutants such as toxic fumes, smoke, dust and obnoxious odors arising from industrial concerns have thus far been considered.

As an example of the complaints dealing with air pollution received on the state level, the State Department of Health has handled 83 complaints from 46 communities located in 8 different counties. Of these 83 complaints, 30 dealt with alleged damage to health, 13 to crops and property and 45 were classified as nuisance complaints.

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The State Department of Labor and Industry reported the receipt of 13 complaints of which 1 was a threat to health, 1 dealt with a

trace of chlorine gas; and 11 were listed as nuisance cases.

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has during the last 7 years investigated 25 complaints coming from communities and farming areas. Upon investigating these complaints, damage to plant life has been found to occur in 21 separate cases. Of those investigated 9 were caused by fluorine; 1 chlorine; 2, 2,4-D; 1 lime dust; and the remaining 8 cases remain as unsolved problems.

The complaints classified as nuisance cases have included among other things, obnoxious odors not producing physiogenic effects, as well as smoke and dust that darkens clothing, buildings, etc.

The commission also finds that industry in New Jersey spent \$12,367,131 on air pollution abatement equipment during the 5 year period between the years 1946 to 1950, and that present plans call for the installation during the next 2 years of additional abatement equipment amounting to \$5,695,291. This air pollution abatement equipment is operated at an annual cost of \$2,213,808.

The problems of air pollution control and legislation are made most difficult by the lack of fundamental information on many fronts. The extreme toxicity of some effluents to plant life present problems of engineering that industry has not yet completely mastered. Some factors such as the cumulative effect of prolonged low concentrations of toxic gasses alone or in combinations, on humans or agricultural animals or crops is still unknown. With the rapid developments of our time, new products involving new chemicals and processes are appearing at frequent intervals. Many of these new developments present new and unsolved problems of air pollution. Because of the complexity of the problems encountered, your commission wishes to have more time to consider these problems before making specific recommendations.

Air Pollution Commission.

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Assemblyman L. M. Herrmann
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