



WASHINGTON — The air we breathe is becoming a major national problem. Not long ago, a scientist predicted that air pollution would put an end to life on earth in another hundred years. Few believe it will turn out that way, but it is fact that air contamination is reaching danger levels in many areas of the United States.

Fresh air, once the trademark of the suburbs and rural areas, is a diminishing commodity everywhere. Industry, the combustion engine, and man himself have seen to that. "Smog" is a word for dirty air which we began to use a few years ago. But the English coined the word nearly sixty years ago to describe a mixture of fog and fumes

that smothered London in the fall and winter when the weather let stagnant vapors accumulate in the air.

Our population like Europe's is massing in urban centers, highway corridors, and industrial complexes. Smog is now a condition present not only over cities, but over small towns and places far from metropolitan areas. Industries and local governments have worked on the problem for some time in a few cities in this country. Now air pollution has worsened and local efforts are no longer sufficient. Contaminants swirl in the air from one community to another and then across state lines.

In 1963 Congress recognized this and enacted three laws to help cities and states to abate pollution that moved across state lines. Four years later, studies reveal that pollution is getting worse. On January 30th of this year, the President felt that new measures were needed to depollute the air. He recommended that Congress enact the Air Quality Act of 1967 for the purpose of coordinating scientific, industrial, and governmental efforts dealing with the problem. The measure would also provide Federal funds for research to find ways to rid the air of noxious vapors and to make grants to commissions which would set regional standards for pollution control.

Science is constantly engaged in technological efforts to improve fuels and the usage. It is also studying the relation of air pollution and respiratory diseases. Industry has long been concerned with waste controls and the most effective use of fuels. The task ahead is to unify man's efforts to assure that poisons released into the air do not become intolerable.

For generations we have been relatively free from this worry. Our free enterprise system could use with impunity virtually any form of energy, and our country grew rapidly. Now progress and growth have brought us to new considerations. When air becomes heavily polluted in our cities and towns and villages it must be reckoned with. A few months ago, an estimated 80 persons died in New York City from a deadly smog which settled upon its inhabitants. Even the Nation's Capital, which has virtually no manufacturing plants, has one of the highest air pollution rates of any city in the country.

The Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution has been holding hearings on the

This Week's 60 SECOND SERMON

By
Fred Dodge

TEXT: "A teen-ager is grown up when he prefers passing an examination to passing the car ahead."—Banking.

A mother discovered her teen-age son slumped dejectedly in a living room chair on a Sunday afternoon. She asked her husband, sitting nearby, what calamity had struck their son.

"He wants to go to the corner drug store," dad said, "but the car won't start."

When teen-agers are criticized, remember that what they do as teenagers they learned long before they became teen-agers. However, it won't harm them to read what Police Chief L. D. Harris of Manassas Park, Virginia wrote for a PTA meeting.

"Always we hear the plaintive teen-age cry: 'What can we do? Where can we go?' The answer is . . . go home. Hang storm windows, paint woodwork, rake leaves, mow the lawn, wash the car, learn to cook, scrub some floors, repair the sink, build a boat, get a job.

"Help the minister, the priest, the rabbi, the Red Cross, Salvation Army. Visit the sick. Assist the poor. Study your lessons.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your village does not owe you recreational facilities. The world doesn't owe you a living.

"In plain, simple words: Grow up, quit being a cry-baby; get out of your dream world. . . start acting like a man or a lady."

Record Soybean Acreage For '67 Is Indicated

North Carolina farmers have reported intentions to plant a record 1,071,000 acres of soybeans alone for all purposes in 1967, according to the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service. On the basis of the March intentions, the current crop is expected to be 9 percent above the previous record planting in 1966. If the current estimate materializes, it will mark the fifth consecutive year that acreage planted to soybeans has increased.

UNITED STATES: Growers intend to plant a record high acreage of soybeans for the seventh consecutive year. Prospective soybean acreage planted alone for all purposes totals 40,602,000 acres, 9 percent above the 37,388,000 acres planted in 1966.

The well-rounded adult has often forgotten the value of recreation which is more important to adults than active youngsters.

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Say You Saw it in
The Coolcemees Journal

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