

His Amendment May Make County Air 'Less Dirty'

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District
On the afternoon of May 6, 1965, when our Assembly Committee on Transportation and Commerce was hearing testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 317 by State Senator Randolph Collier, I offered my own amendment to the Collier motor-vehicle pollution-control bill. The essence of my amendment reads as follows:

"All devices tested for purposes of certification shall be tested by a procedure which includes tests of the device to measure its ability to control the emission of pollutants while a vehicle is operating at full performance."

I discussed this amendment with the chairman of our committee, Assemblyman Tom C. Carrell, on May 5. On the morning of May 6, I gave Mr. Carrell two copies of the amendment. On the afternoon of May 6, I gave one copy to Senator Randolph Collier, the author of the bill; one copy to Mr. Donald A. Jensen, Executive Director, Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, State of California; an original and four copies to Mr. Carrell's Committee Secretary; and one copy to each of the 13 other members of the committee.

THIS IS the 15th year that I have been a member of this committee. The only other Assemblyman who has been a member of this committee a longer time is Assemblyman Vincent Thomas of San Rdo. Naturally, experience is of considerable value in getting things done.

After Senator Collier asked our committee to adopt his own extensive amendments to his own bill, we cheerfully complied. Then Mr. Carrell asked Senator Collier for his comments on my one-paragraph amendment. Senator Collier said he would like to have Mr. Donald A. Jensen come forward as an expert witness. Mr. Jensen, who was sitting with the dozens of expert witnesses and other interested citizens, came forward to the podium and testified that as Executive Director, Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, Suite 704, 217 W. First St., Los Angeles 12, Calif., he was glad to state that he was already having his staff test all "anti-smog" devices in accordance with my proposed amendment. By this he meant devices and systems built into automobile engines at the factories and devices (called "gadgets" by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas) added at their own expense by motorists.

I ASKED Mr. Jensen if he had any objection to having this excellent practice of his written into the Collier bill so that it would be handy for anyone to read. Mr. Jensen smiled and said that this would be a good idea. When Mr. Jensen left the witness stand, Senator Collier took the stand again and said he would be glad to have my amendment become part of the law. With all this expert enthusiasm, every member of our committee voted "Aye" and hence my amendment

became part of the Collier bill.

Sitting in the audience with other prominent public officials was our own County Supervisor Burton C. Chace of Long Beach who has all of the 46th Assembly District; all of 28th Congressional District; plus other large chunks of real estate, in his own supervisory district. Supervisor Chace, who has been in the forefront in our long fight for clean air in Los Angeles County, beamed approval when my amendment was passed into the Collier bill.

ALTHOUGH my amendment is short, it is intended to shut off at the source any State governmental approval of any "anti-smog" device or system which lacks "ability to control the emission of pollutants while a vehicle is operating at full performance."

In plain words, this prevents the California State Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board from accidentally forcing owners of trucks, family cars, etc., to buy autos with faulty systems built in at the factory, or added to cars not made with the device or system installed at the factory. This does not mean that all the air over Los Angeles County is going to become pure suddenly. Actually, I doubt that we ever will have anything approaching pure air over Los Angeles County, but eventually the air will be less dirty than it is now, I am happy to report!

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10:45—Jr. High and High School Fellowship Training—6:15 P.M.
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