

# Air Pollution Chief Cites 1953 Progress

Ed note:—The following report was issued by Gordon P. Larson Monday, the day before the County Board of Supervisors fired him as director of the county's Air Pollution Control District.

County Air Pollution Control District officials today took a glance over the year just completed and reported that although it is not immediately apparent to the individual citizen, much progress was made in the war-on-smog during 1953 in Torrance and other areas of Los Angeles County.

Over \$6,300,000 worth of control equipment was built and installed by industry during the year. 51 per cent as much as in all previous years combined. Part of this amount went toward control of the last of the 64 iron foundries to complete dust and fume elimination work. All 54 foundries are now under control. District engineers stated. Total control equipment cost industry \$18,347,700 to date.

Value of basic equipment approved by smog control engineers has reached \$123,348,700 with over \$32,000,000 of this equipment receiving permits this past year.

**765 Hearings**  
The District continued its strict enforcement programs during the year, according to the Inspection Division, with 8203 enforcement actions taken. This includes 3738 notices of violation served, 765 hearings held, 130 Hearing Board cases filed, 184 court cases filed, 567 permits denied and 2909 permits issued.

Smog controllers made 24,416 inspections in 1953, 1792 of these on specific complaints from citizens.

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## LAW IN ACTION

### EQUAL JUSTICE

You would really feel hurt, (wouldn't you?) for a court to decide your neighbor's case one way last week, and this week to settle yours—one just like it—another way? Especially as he won his case and you lost—on the same kind of facts.

You say: "If it was right to settle my neighbor's case last week one way, then, mine should be settled this week the same way."

And you would be right. Justice is not just settling disputes, punishing guilty people, or protecting the innocent. That's an important part of it. But we also want laws to apply to all alike.

Well, then, you would want the judge to study similar cases before making up his mind about your case.

And that's exactly what judges do!

**Precedent**

That's why, when you look in on a trial, you will see lawyers getting up and reading out of big books to the judge. They are, as they say, citing cases, or quoting "precedent." They are saying, in cases like the present

one—previous courts have held the law to be thus and so.

A judge does not have to agree with either lawyer. His job is to hear both sides and make up his own mind. The lawyers are stating what they think should guide him in making decisions.

Perhaps, after a trial, especially a trial where both parties have waived the jury, the judge will ask the lawyers to "submit their case on brief." To do so, a lawyer sets out the facts in his case to show how judges in like cases used rules of law favoring the lawyer's client.

Lawyers for both sides do this and exchange their briefs. Then the judge decides. In his decision he finds one or the other party had the most reasonable and pertinent cases cited on its side. The new case itself may be quoted in turn on future occasions in other trials.

**NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for you may know more about how to act under our laws.**

## Police Chief Gives Remedy for Holiday Accidents--Free Coffee

Police Chief J. H. Stroh issued some wise advice this week to help remedy the year's most dangerous seasons—Christmas and New Year's.

Chief Stroh pointed out that, during the twin four-day observance of Christmas and New Year's last year, 962 persons were killed and 13,000 injured in highway accidents throughout the United States.

As a method of making the holidays a safe and sane one in Torrance, Chief Stroh suggested that all residents who are giving Christmas or New Year's parties, serve black coffee as the last drink of the night for departing guests.

**Coffee Steadies**

Since medical tests have shown that coffee taken after alcohol has a marked steadying effect, the chances of avoiding accidents would be improved if celebrants were reined with coffee before hitting the road for home, Chief Stroh stated.

Serving coffee "on the house" at the moment of departure also would focus the celebrants' attention dramatically on the need for caution at the psychological moment—just as they are about to drive home.

Maryland Report  
Stroh also referred to a re-

port issued by the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission, in which it was stated that tavern owners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia met last year to figure ways to curb holiday accidents, and made a resolution calling on all taverns in those areas to serve coffee as the final drink of the night for departing drinkers.

**Alternate Plan**

The Eastern tavern owners also worked out a plan for merrymakers who refused to drink coffee and who demanded something stronger. If celebrants demanded another drink, the tavern owners decided, a special price would be charged for it—the key to the drinker's car. The key would be redeemable the next day or whenever the driver returned to the tavern in fit condition to drive.

Chief Stroh advised local merrymakers to have "one for the road," but to be sure and make it coffee.

DECEMBER 17, 1953 TORRANCE HERALD thirteen

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