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By CARROLL E. WILLIAMS

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A case in point, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 3909 Pennington avenue. The Rev. Ernest Schnepp, pastor, accompanied me on an inspection of the windows of the ground-floor auditorium of the building.

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The Rev. Mr. Schnepp looked at the scarred windows, and commented:

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"It is really a crime to let this air-pollution continue. These people about me have been too tolerant, too unwilling to fight for what are their just rights, and so they have gone on enduring this destruction of their properties, not to mention the possible harmful effects their bodies must suffer by reason of having to breathe air saturated with acid fumes."

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### Plants Blighted

"You should see damage done nearer these plants," he said.

He pointed to the iris in his well-tended flower garden on the grounds between the church and the parsonage. The tips of the leaves were brown and withered.

"They have been burned by acid fumes," he said. Walking to his vegetable garden, he pointed out dead rhubarb.

"That, too, has been blighted by acid," he said. A little way removed, he indicated an apple tree seedling bare of leaves.

"It had pretty green leaves not so long ago, but the acid fumes have killed them, too," he said.

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Mr. Hubbard replied: "You've about stumped me. It is a practical matter you must work out. You can't get rid of the plants, because they produce needed goods and they pay taxes to the municipality and give employment.

"Nor do you want to rid the section of the homes, else the workers would not be immediately available to operate the plants.

"But you do have health ordinances that ought to be strictly enforced.

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Meanwhile, Mr. Whiting protested that "our plant is not the only offender in Curtis Bay. Our workmen have been required to work in atmosphere polluted by other plants. Some of the odors are awful. One plant burns waste under its boilers and clouds of dense smoke result."

Commenting on the protests from residents about acid fumes which have etched windows and scalded the leaves of shrubs, trees

and garden plants and flowers, Mr. Whiting said:

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"But we are not the only plant involved. I have discussed with several of the other plant managers conditions which annoy our workers. I called engineers in sometime ago, and we have been working with city officials trying to eliminate this thing."

**B ED SUN**

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In those days the nuisance was characterized by an overpowering, all-pervasive, mephitic stench. That stench still makes its presence known, when the wind is right, but the tendency now is not to complain; it is assumed that dreadful smells are inevitable because of the war.

The people who live in the Curtis Bay area, however, are long past complaining about any

mere odor—what they're now getting, they claim, is something much worse. It certainly looks as though they're right. The ordinary layman is likely to be horrified and ask, If it etches glass, what does it do to people's lungs? There are a number of acids, among them hydrofluoric, the fumes of which, over a long period of time, will cause glass to become cloudy and roughened. Such fumes certainly do not make for a healthy atmosphere. However, acid fumes are not the only offenders; the same effects are caused, perhaps even more quickly, by alkali. Possibly a considerable part of the cloudiness observed in the glass at Curtis Bay results from the chemical reaction on the putty and paint of the window frames. But here again the question is raised, If it does that to putty and paint, what will it do to people's skin?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to order the industrial plants to quit polluting the air instantly or close down. There's a war on; production cannot stop. Yet there must be some way to give the Curtis Bay people relief. The president of the largest fertilizer and acid plant there says that a corrective device will go into operation today. Methods of permanently abating this nuisance should be found and put into use by all such plants at the earliest possible time.

**EVENING SUN**

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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## Those Harassing Fumes In South Baltimore. *Eve. Sun*

Something is at last being done to meet the complaints of South Baltimore residents against the obnoxious acid fumes which for such a long time have plagued those residents and the people of rather much of the rest of the town. Only a thorough trial, of course, can properly test the effectiveness of the new fume-control apparatus at one of the major fertilizer and acid plants in Curtis Bay, but the size of the investment in this apparatus suggests that it is a real attempt to meet the problem. **JUN 29 1945**

That the people of South Baltimore are justified in their complaints is plain enough for anyone. And neither can there be any doubt that they are entitled to live free of rank nuisances. It also should be noted that the Health Department has the obligation to see that harmful fumes are not permitted to pollute the air. This obligation is clearly imposed by a law which directs the Health Commissioner to take action to end a nuisance which creates a health hazard.

It is only fair to point out, however, that Baltimore is an industrial city. Industrial plants have their disagreeable aspects. Within limits we must put up with these unhappy aspects of industrialism so long as we want the advantages.

But the people of South Baltimore, or of any other section of the city, should not have to put up with nuisances that can be avoided. It is a rare case when the wastes from an industrial plant, whether it be in the nature of fumes, liquids or solids, cannot be disposed of without harming or harassing those who live in the area. And it often happens that this waste can be put to some useful purpose.

The control of fumes from the one Curtis Bay plant would not, of course, solve the problem in hand. But the steps taken at this plant marks what we hope will be the beginning of an earnest effort to clean up a bad situation in the whole industrial area.

## Flowers Wilt, Nylons Run In Curtis Bay Smog

Harry Davis pointed dejectedly to the limp and seared remnants of a flower garden in the front yard of his home at 1501 Filbert street, Curtis Bay. *Eve. Sun*

"This was pretty enough to win an award in the Brooklyn Lions' garden contest just a few weeks ago," he said.

Mr. Davis attributes the death of his garden to the vapor-laden pall last week which marked the onset of Baltimore's autumn smog season.

Gardens are not the only victims of the smog in Curtis Bay and sections of Brooklyn.

Women are complaining that the smog ruins their nylon hosiery.

### Not Hung Outdoors

"When we wash our hosiery we never hang it outside to dry. If we did it would be ruined in a few minutes," says Mrs. Theresa Matanowski, 1213 Church street, Brooklyn. *Oct. 3, 1951*

This was effective for a while, but recently hosiery has been deteriorating while being worn.

"One day last week I got dressed to go shopping. By the time I walked the few blocks from my home to Pennington avenue my hose were ruined," Mrs. Matanowski said. *Oct. 3, 1951*

This report was verified by other women who indicated that the nylon toll is rising.

"I'd like to move away from this condition, but nobody wants to buy property here," Mr. Davis said.

"I don't blame them much when they see something like that," he said, pointing to two trees in his yard which are obviously dying, and the yellowed lawn which, he insists, was not burned by the summer sun. *Eve. Sun*

"Everybody's trying to get out of Curtis Bay, not come in," adds Mrs. Cecilia Hajek, who operates a store at Church street and Pennington avenue.

Mrs. Hajek said she has lived in Curtis Bay for 50 years and, like her neighbors, was able until a few years ago to tolerate the smells.

### "Almost Unbearable"

"But it has gotten almost unbearable in the past year and it seems like it is worse this fall," she added.

She pointed to a scarred metal sign outside the store.

"That was hung up there brand new just two years ago but, like everything else around, it has been ruined by *Eve. Sun*." she said.

"I've never complained much before, because I realize plants have to operate and people have to work for a living, but this smog business has gotten so bad now I think something will have to be done." *Oct. 3, 1951*

### Vapors Stain Glass

The vapors have an effect on glass which would lead a stranger to believe that many housewives in the community don't clean their windows or that the neighborhood fashion calls for black-frosted window panes.

Harry Stein, who operates a tavern at 5012 Curtis avenue, says that window glass has to be replaced every two or three years unless it is washed almost daily. He pointed to a near-by building in which the upper windows appeared to have been covered with black paint. *Oct. 3, 1951*

"It's the acid that does that and the only thing you could do with those windows would be to put in new glass," he said. *Eve. Sun*

"Politicians? We've been trying to get them to do something about this for twenty years, but the only time you see them is before an election," said a man who declined to identify himself. "Don't pay to have those fellows hear you say something like that."