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AIR POLLUTION STUDY BANNED

Howard Heads Turn Down Federal-Aid Plan

The Howard county commissioners took a deep breath yesterday and turned down a State Department of Health invitation to join the Baltimore metropolitan area in a Federally supported three-year study of air pollution.

"Just breathe those March winds," urged Charles E. Miller, chairman of the commissioners, as he questioned a representative of the State Health Department's division of occupational health on the \$1,170,000 study plan in effect in the city and in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. **SUN**

"We have free air here in Howard," Mr. Miller concluded. But he added that the local cost of admission to the plan—estimated at \$4,000 during the first year and roughly double that the second—was also a factor in his refusal.

Financing Explained

Under the plan, the Federal Government contributes three times the amount contributed locally to the three-year study of local air pollution. The metropolitan Baltimore study, begun last July, has been operating on a \$300,000 budget this year, with \$75,000 contributed by the three participants.

"We have no need for such a study now," David W. Force, one of the commissioners, told Col. John Brown, the State health representative. "Except for a few automobile-burning junkyards on Washington boulevard, we're all right." **MAR 9 1966**

Meanwhile, legal representatives of one of the more embattled of the county's car-burning junkyards were assessing yesterday a local emergency bill enacted Monday in the Legislature to prohibit such burning on all but the largest lots.

Probable Effect Noted

Samuel S. Smalkin, a Baltimore attorney, said yesterday the bill, prohibiting all junk-car burning within 1,000 feet of any adjoining property, "probably" would affect his client, Colonial Cars and Parts, on Route 1 near Jessup.

Mr. Smalkin would not say whether he intended an appeal of

the bill's validity, but he added that it was his understanding that Senator James Clark, Jr. (D., Howard), its sponsor, intended to limit its prohibition to open-air burning.

Mr. Smalkin also said he intended to appeal a county Board of Zoning Appeals decision last week denying the burning operation its status as a non-conforming use. The decision had been requested by nearby residents who protested about a "black, greasy column of smoke" they blamed on the burning cars. **SUN**

Mr. Smalkin is also awaiting decision by the county commissioners after a hearing last week at which Glenn Wolfe, the junkyard's owner, had been asked to defend his operation against charges that it was a health hazard.

At that hearing Mr. Smalkin produced an expert witness who testified that air pollution near the junkyard was "normal" and suggested that smoke from burning cars was no more responsible than truck traffic on Route 1.

Mr. Miller yesterday cited the expert to support his argument that Howard county was free from controllable air pollution. Exhaust fumes, he suggested, were the responsibility of the automobile industry.

Value Indicated

The argument was disputed by a county health official who said he favored joining the metropolitan area air-pollution study.

Palmer F. Wine, of the county sanitation department, pointed out that he could have verified or rebutted the expert's testimony—if a study plan had been in effect, with Federal money pollution detection equipment and trained men. **MAR 9 1966**

The study plan Colonel Brown presented yesterday called for a \$15,000 inspection station, financed by a \$4,000 contribution from the county. The figures probably would be doubled in the second year, he said.

As the commissioners' enthusiasm began rapidly to wane Colonel Brown admitted that the present range of the metropolitan study would cover only the Ellington City section of the county.

"Perhaps the study doesn't have the scope you would want to cover the whole county," he conceded.

The commissioners repeated that they were uninterested in paying for any kind of air pollution study at the present time.

Breaking The Boundary Barrier

Arundel Leads

The Way In

Air Pollution Fight

By Louis Granger

Anne Arundel county has taken the initiative in the metropolitan Baltimore Air Quality Survey by opening the first continuous air monitoring station under the cooperative program. **EVE. SUN**

In a modest white building on the grounds of the Department of Public Works in Glen Burnie, the county is taking air samples of oxides of nitrogen, aldehydes and oxidants—in various degrees all irritants to humans. **SUN**

Joseph G. Abey, a sanitarian with the County Health Department, heads the Air Quality Control Section within the Division of Environmental Health. **EVE. SUN**

"Ultimately we will have automatic sampling equipment in addition to the wet chemistry sampling we're doing now," he said.

Sanitarians sample the air daily by placing distilled water and certain additives in test tubes and then pump the air through plastic tubing into the test tubes.

Automatic devices will allow the county to collect samples of sulphur dioxide, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide and at the same time record wind direction and speed, temperature and humidity. **MAR 2 1966**

More than 1,000,000 bits of information can be gathered annually by one automatic testing station, Mr. Abey said.

In about two years, the county will have four identical sampling stations under the metropolitan survey network which includes Baltimore city, Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties.

Computer To Solve Problem

It would be nearly impossible for one person or even a group of experts to record and analyze the millions of pieces of information that will be gathered.

But a computer will solve this problem in quick order, said Mr. Abey. **EVE. SUN**

Organized last June, the metropolitan cooperative program calls for a three-year study followed by a three-year control phase.

During the initial three-year program, an "emissions inventory" will be undertaken to determine where the irritants that pollute the air come from.

The control phase would include legislation to restrict anything that emits smoke or irritants into the air. **MAR 2 1966**

Air sampling is not new to the metropolitan subdivisions, but up to now monitoring stations have been operated mostly under the State Department of Health.

Three Stations

The county health department, headed by Dr. J. Howard Beard, has been operating three sampling stations for the State. They are located in the Anne Arundel General Hospital, Annapolis; the Riviera Beach Elementary School, and the Department of Public Works in Glen Burnie.

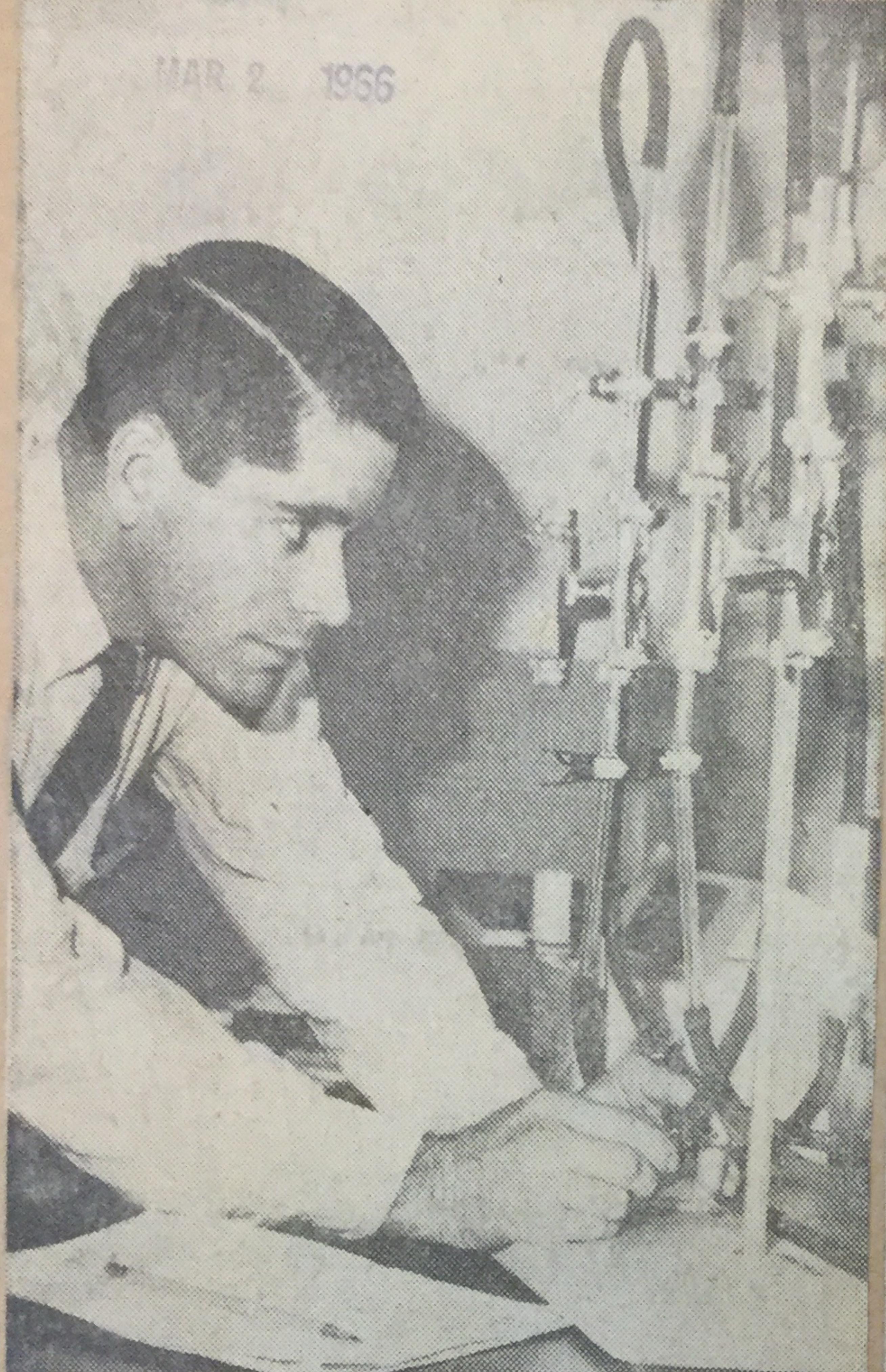
Federal, State and local funds are financing the joint venture. Approximately \$225,000 has been allocated for the first year's operation for the entire metropolitan area. Anne Arundel county's share is \$65,000. **EVE. SUN**

Baltimore city and Baltimore county are expected to turn their sampling operations over to the metropolitan network in the near future. **MAR 2 1966**

The purpose of the entire project is simply to make the air we breathe cleaner and healthier.

Besides Mr. Abey, others active in the Air Quality Control Program in the county are Walter H. Krey, public health engineer, and Richard E. Baker, sanitarian.

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Sunpapers photo—Gardina
Anne Arundel county sanitarian Richard E. Baker checks one
of the instruments taking air samples at the county Department of
Public Works in Glen Burnie.

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Air Pollution Study Enters New Phase

By David Runkel

The Metropolitan Baltimore Air Quality Survey Committee is entering the second year of its \$900,000 study to determine the level of air pollution in the Baltimore area with the start of a new survey phase.

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The study, being conducted to determine if a need exists for updating air pollution control laws in the State, Baltimore city and Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, will provide information on the tons of dust and the pounds of gases entering the air, John M. Brown, committee chairman, said.

The second phase will be the taking of an emission inventory of wastes being put into the atmosphere by industry, commercial establishments, apartment houses and government buildings.

Questionnaires Due

Approximately 30,000 questionnaires will be sent out starting the end of the month.

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The questionnaires seek to find out such information as the type of fuel used, the height of smokestacks, the sulphur content of fuel used, the kinds of processes used, methods used to dispose of combustible wastes and the type of control equipment presently installed.

The inventory, Mr. Brown said, will be used to determine where the greatest concentration of pollution now exists and what the potential level of pollution is.

He said the State law requires that companies reply to the questionnaire.

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Six Sampling Stations

Information from the inventory will be correlated with data presently being received from six sampling stations that were established during the first year of the survey. Two of the stations are located in the city and two are in each of the counties.

Four more stations will be set up this year and another four will be opened the following year. Mr. Brown said.

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The sampling stations are monitoring for the following substances:

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1. Sulphur dioxide—A product of all kinds of burning.
2. Oxides of nitrogen—Another product of general burning.
3. Aliphatic aldehydes—A product emitted from auto exhaust.
4. Total oxidants—All types of oxides considered to be responsible for smog.
5. Total hydrocarbons—A product of petroleum burning.
6. Carbon Monoxide—A product of auto exhaust.
7. Dust — Collected from all sources.
8. Two-hour dust samples—The dust load for two-hour time periods.

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9. Temperature humidity, wind direction and wind speed—Atmospheric conditions that have a great influence on air pollutants.

To Await Survey

Until the survey is completed, metropolitan Baltimore residents will have to live with conditions largely as they are.

Baltimore city is the only jurisdiction with an air pollution control law and it merely gives the Commissioner of Health authority to write rules and regulations for controlling air pollution.

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These regulations have not been written and city officials say they are now thinking that it will be best to wait until after this survey is completed to decide what regulations should be made.

A bill giving the Baltimore County Health Department similar authority has been introduced before the County Council and is awaiting action. A similar bill is expected to be put before the Anne Arundel County Council.

The State Health Department must rely on the power of persuasion to stop air pollution.

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Relying On Ordinances

With the lack of any specific air pollution regulations, the city and the two counties are relying on smoke control ordinances that govern the emission of smoke and noxious odors.

These laws apply mainly to the types of incinerators and screens installed in industrial plants and other buildings.

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Mr. Brown said the current study will last three years and will cost approximately \$900,000. The Federal Government is paying 75 per cent of the bill and the remaining \$225,000 is coming from the State, the city and the two counties.

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