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## ANOTHER L. A.?

# Eye-Stinging Smog Seen For Tucson

By PETER STARRETT

Los Angeles - type smog—the kind that irritates the eyes—can be expected here in the future, Dr. James McDonald told a meeting of Young Democrats yesterday.

Asked how soon he expected this to happen in Tucson and Phoenix, McDonald said it is difficult to put a time measurement on it, but that it would be reasonable to expect it within the next 10 years if nothing is done to prevent it.

McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, urged his hearers to do all they could to get the Arizona Legislature to reconsider the appropriation of funds for study of the growing smog problem.

McDonald explained that the only regular measurements of air pollution in the state now are taken at the University of Arizona. Regular measurements should be taken at several more points

in Tucson and at a variety of points in Phoenix right now if the problem is to be solved, McDonald said.

McDONALD stressed that it is easy to go off with "half-cocked assumptions" about what is causing smog. He added that one of the things that has made the smog situation so confusing and expensive in some other areas is that officials have taken all sorts of actions without really understanding what is causing the problem.

The chief problem that concerned researchers in Los Angeles was the matter of eye irritation, McDonald said. In Tucson and Phoenix, we are primarily concerned about the haze that cuts down visibility and blocks out sunlight. They may be two different problems entirely, he said.

But Arizona's cities should be concerned about both and should be looking ahead toward the eye-irritation phase. "It is coming—we can expect it," he warned.

Los Angeles researchers

finally concluded that the eye irritation comes from certain hydro-carbon particles that come from automobile exhaust. To date, no one has invented a means of preventing these.

**THE BUILDUP** of this substance can be measured best by the amount of gasoline that is burned annually by each vehicle in the metropolitan area. In Los Angeles, the amount is up to about 730 gallons per car, per year.

In Pima County, it now is about 645 gallons per car, per year. But consumption in both Pima and Maricopa counties doubled in the last nine years and can be expected to double again within the next 10 years, McDonald calculates.

There are other factors of the atmosphere involved, but in general, McDonald says, it is logical to guess that eye irritation will be a problem here within the next 10 years.

He adds that measurements being taken at the university have shown, on a few days in the past year, that the eye-irritant level here has come within 10 per cent of the alarm level set up in Los Angeles.

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