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Tucsonians Hit Smog Bill Death

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tory, took exception to a statement by Sen. Ray Thompson, D-Yuma, who said, "There are hundreds of peaks in Arizona where the observatory could have been built that are free of smog and always will be."

Labeling Thompson's remark as "unknowledgeable," Mayall said:

"The selection of Kitt Peak was made after intensive scientific considerations and tests were made in the entire Southwest. Such decisions are not lightly made."

"IT FINALLY narrowed down to Arizona, then to various sites in the state and finally to Kitt Peak. There are many more considerations in the selection of a site than simply whether or not the air was clear when the site was chosen."

Thompson in the Senate also said, "Locating the observatory there (Kitt Peak) was a worthless move and came about only through the Tucson Chamber of Commerce."

Mayall countered, "I can assure Mr. Thompson or anyone else that the Chamber of Commerce had nothing to do with influencing the National Science Foundation

and some of the nation's foremost scientists to choose the site."

"The entire record of how and why Kitt Peak was selected is open to anyone who wishes to learn the facts."

Dr. James E. McDonald, director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona, termed the bill's defeat "a stupid action."

McDonald said, "This is a fine example of what psychologists call 'the ostrich mechanism.'

"The legislators apparently feel that by putting their heads in the sand the (smog) problem will go away.

"My concern for the bill was that even it failed to take into account the extent and seriousness of Arizona's air pollution problem. But that even such a small beginning should have been so superficially considered shows that the legislators just didn't get the point."

McDonald continued, "It's obvious that the public is better informed and more ready to act than the Legislature.

"This is one more example of the irresponsible way in which informed and enlightened scientific fact and opinion can be so lightly dismissed and disparaged."