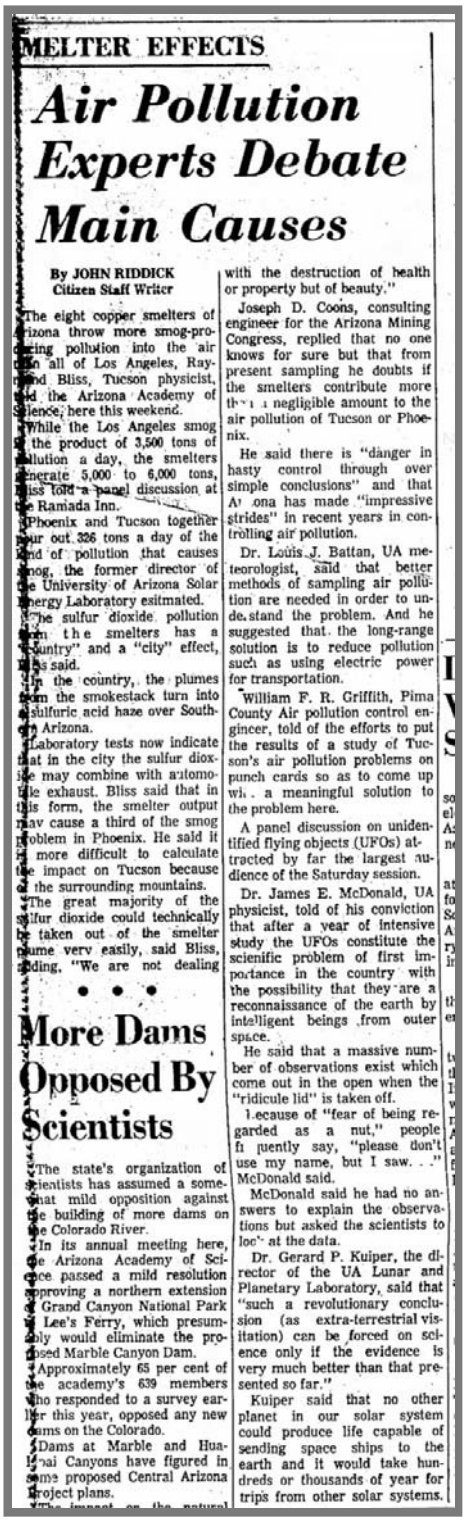

SMELTER EFFECTS

Air Pollution Experts Debate Main Causes

By JOHN RIDDICK
Citizen Staff Writer

The eight copper smelters of Arizona throw more smog-producing pollution into the air than all of Los Angeles, Raymond Bliss, Tucson physicist, told the Arizona Academy of Science, here this weekend.

While the Los Angeles smog is the product of 3,500 tons of pollution a day, the smelters generate 5,000 to 6,000 tons, Bliss told a panel discussion at the Ramada Inn.

Phoenix and Tucson together pour out 326 tons a day of the kind of pollution that causes smog, the former director of the University of Arizona Solar Energy Laboratory esitmated.

The sulfur dioxide pollution from the smelters has a "country" and a "city" effect, he said.

In the country, the plumes from the smokestack turn into a sulfuric acid haze over Southern Arizona.

Laboratory tests now indicate that in the city the sulfur dioxide may combine with automobile exhaust. Bliss said that in this form, the smelter output may cause a third of the smog problem in Phoenix. He said it is more difficult to calculate the impact on Tucson because of the surrounding mountains.

The great majority of the sulfur dioxide could technically be taken out of the smelter plume very easily, said Bliss, adding, "We are not dealing with the destruction of health or property but of beauty."

Joseph D. Coons, consulting engineer for the Arizona Mining Congress, replied that no one knows for sure but that from present sampling he doubts if the smelters contribute more than a negligible amount to the air pollution of Tucson or Phoenix.

He said there is "danger in hasty control through over simple conclusions" and that Arizona has made "impressive strides" in recent years in controlling air pollution.

Dr. Louis J. Battan, UA meteorologist, said that better methods of sampling air pollution are needed in order to understand the problem. And he suggested that the long-range solution is to reduce pollution such as using electric power for transportation.

William F. R. Griffith, Pima County Air pollution control engineer, told of the efforts to put the results of a study of Tucson's air pollution problems on punch cards so as to come up with a meaningful solution to the problem here.

A panel discussion on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) attracted by far the largest audience of the Saturday session.

Dr. James E. McDonald, UA physicist, told of his conviction that after a year of intensive study the UFOs constitute the scienific problem of first importance in the country with the possibility that they are a reconnaissance of the earth by intelligent beings from outer space.

He said that a massive number of observations exist which come out in the open when the "ridicule lid" is taken off.

Because of "fear of being regarded as a nut," people frequently say, "please don't use my name, but I saw. . ." McDonald said.

McDonald said he had no answers to explain the observations but asked the scientists to look at the data.

Dr. Gerard P. Kuiper, the director of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, said that "such a revolutionary conclusion (as extra-terrestrial visitation) can be forced on science only if the evidence is very much better than that presented so far."

Kuiper said that no other planet in our solar system could produce life capable of sending space ships to the earth and it would take hundreds or thousands of year for trips from other solar systems.

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More Dams Opposed By Scientists

The state's organization of scientists has assumed a somewhat mild opposition against the building of more dams on the Colorado River.

In its annual meeting here, the Arizona Academy of Science passed a mild resolution approving a northern extension of Grand Canyon National Park to Lee's Ferry, which presumably would eliminate the proposed Marble Canyon Dam.

Approximately 65 per cent of the academy's 639 members who responded to a survey earlier this year, opposed any new dams on the Colorado.

Dams at Marble and Hualapai Canyons have figured in some proposed Central Arizona Project plans.