

GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. MATHEW M. BRAJDECH,¹—The use of odorants in natural gas pipeline systems is relatively simple compared to the bottled gas systems—liquefied butane or propane, sometimes referred to as LP gases.

I am a member of a committee that has been wrestling for some time now with the problem of odorization of LP gas. It is not a simple problem because there is tendency for disproportionate carry-over of the agents. An ideal odorant has not yet been found.

In this connection, the problem arises time and again as to what should be considered the proper or acceptable threshold of susceptibility. What should it be to safeguard such hazardous materials?

We also have the problem of hot boxes on railroad cars. Every now and then when one arrives at Grand Central Station, one may identify an odor that indicates there has been a hot box. Odorous compounds are used as warning signals, one of the more novel applications in the field of odor.

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Odor is also used as a warning agent in areas where there is considerable noise, and where an audible or visible signal would not be heard or noted by a pre-occupied worker. Such warnings have been used in the ventilating shafts of coal mines.

Another broad problem in our business concerns smoke odor damage control. There is an economic consideration in recovery of salvageable commodities. The importance of such a problem is emphasized in a situation where there is damage to foodstuffs or damage to an entire warehouse of furs or wearing apparel. Women will recognize that their fur pieces have been tainted and will refuse to accept them. Smoke odor is sometimes a very difficult thing to remove or mask. All types of treatments and palliatives have been suggested. We are currently looking for good yardsticks in this particular field of odor control.

I think that some very important basic work and some definition of terms are needed. I hope that from this start some such action will be taken and that a committee will be formed for such purposes.