Mr. Smith declared that nonpolluting, battery-powered vehicles for low-speed, low-mileage urban transportation are feasible right now.

This brief summary of developments is not intended to be comprehensive, but merely to indicate that there is widespread interest in the electric vehicle and a recognition that it can substantially reduce the air pollution problem, if it is used as an alternative to the gasoline-powered car in urban areas.

Widespread use of electric vehicles would require increased generation of electric power in order to recharge the batteries of electric vehicles. In this connection, the question of air pollution from electric generating plants will be raised, and should be raised, in assessing the total impact of the use of electric vehicles on the pollution problem.

Unlike gasoline burning automobile engines, modern electric generating stations do not produce carbon monoxide, and the gas from stations is discharged into upper atmosphere, not at street level where it directly contaminates the air people breathe. Furthermore, utilities now have very sophisticated equipment for controlling pollution.

In general, it would seem easier to regulate the discharge from a few hundred large generating plants than from millions of automobiles. The trend toward construction of larger plants, in more remote locations, will facilitate the regulation of generating plant pollution. Increasing use of nuclear fuel also will reduce the potential pollution from generating plants.

The members of our association are fully aware of the pollution problem, as it is affected by the burning of fuels to produce electricity, and I am confident that they will cooperate in any reasonable plan to reduce or eliminate such pollution.

In addition to establishing a special committee to promote greater research which will lead to a "breakthrough" in mass markets and mass production of electric automobiles, our association, at its annual conference in Boston earlier this year adopted the following resolution by unanimous vote on May 12, 1966:

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Whereas battery-powered passenger and other vehicles offer an alternative to vehicles powered by combustion engines, which create severe air pollution problems, and

Whereas research currently underway indicates that economically feasible battery-powered vehicles can be developed within the near future if the electric industry and manufacturers push forward with an aggressive program of research and development, and

Whereas the electric vehicle promises to provide an excellent off-peak load for electric utilities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved: That the American Public Power Association urges a large-scale research and development effort to bring the electric vehicle to the market.

APPA hopes that your committee, in attacking the most pervasive source of air pollution, will recommend the kind of large-scale research and development effort necessary to make available a pollution-free means of transportation for our urban areas.

Our association urges the committee's support for a two-pronged research and development effort. Such an effort would include both design of new vehicles suited for battery operation and development of lighter, longer lasting, and less expensive batteries which can power the vehicles of the future.