

involving touch and feeling, and sight. One can only speculate on the mechanics of the field proper on the nerve cells. Being of a magnetic nature, the insulation of the nerve fibres is broken down, nerve (electric) currents will not flow, the cell does not function, and fills up with granules that normally appear during periods of intense activity.

The cells of the cerebral cortex need long periods of rest to recover from the intense assault of the

force field, hence sleep and tiredness appear after contact with a UFO force field or weapon. This would also explain how reflex actions, which are motivated by deeply seated cells, are still active in spite of the force field.

In addition one must assume that the motivating force field of the UFO is similar to that of the weapon, which probably aims a concentrated beam at the head.

The Great American and Mexican Blackouts

By Gordon Creighton

AT approximaely 5.18 p.m. on November 9, an area of 80,000 square miles, extending from Boston to Buffalo and up into the Canadian Province of Ontario, and embracing some 30,000,000 people, experienced a remarkable blackout, which in some areas lasted for as much as 13½ hours (upper New York State) and in the other areas from three to six hours. All our readers will have seen full details in their papers, and I will quote here only a few lines from the six-page account that appeared in *TIME Magazine* for November 19:

"The first hint that the Northeast's huge CANUSE (Canadian-U.S. Eastern Interconnection) power-grid was in trouble came at 5.16. Moving clockwise, millions of kilowatts of electricity were coursing through the vast network of cables to meet the early-evening needs of the Western Hemisphere's most heavily populated, most power-dependent region. In the humming central control room of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, ink-pens tracing the flow of power suddenly shuddered. At the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, on the other side of Lake Ontario, the dials on a wall lurched out of control. A minute later, meters at the mammoth Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant—biggest in the Hemisphere—also went wild. The power output surged from 1,500 megavolts to 2,250, then sank abruptly to zero. Exclaimed one Engineer: 'The needle came clear off the paper! There were more squiggly lines than in an earthquake.'

"Giant generators spun uncontrollably out of step, and overfed switches sprang open. At Consolidated Edison's Energy Control Center on West Side, Manhattan, the meter showing the power flowing in from the up-state sources recorded 300,000 kilowatts. At 5.18 the flux reversed, and within seconds 1.5 million kw. were surging northward . . ."

While admitting that not one utility expert could offer an explanation (the London *Evening Standard* had carried a report to the same effect from New York on November 11), *Time* concluded that the blackout had been caused by the phenomenon known as "cascading". "When there is a sudden

drain on the line, power rushes in to make up for the loss, but there is a tendency in such cases for the waves to pile up on each other in wild, ever-growing oscillations that carom through the circuit."

In Britain officialdom promptly assured us that "it couldn't happen here", and so said officialdom in most other parts of the U.S.A., such, for example, as officials of the power company at El Paso, Texas. This being so, let us now note with growing interest that, on the night of December 3, another big blackout occurred, allegedly having its origin in that area. It lasted for two hours, and affected a total of about a million people in parts of western Texas, parts of New Mexico, and also the Mexican frontier town of Juarez. Four or five U.S. Air Force bases in that part of the South-West were affected, one of them being Holloman Air Force Base, which is located near a missile centre and is well known to all students of the UFO problem by reason of the large number of sightings there.

I have a minimal knowledge of electrical matters, and certainly do not claim to know what caused these two blackouts, but it may be wise to assemble here a few scraps and notes which could conceivably help us to arrive at the right answer.

1. According to *Time Magazine* (November 19), "Some New Yorkers claimed that they had seen a satellite pass over at the moment the lights failed, and argued that 'the Russians had done it again'."

2. The Italian paper *Corriere della Sera* of November 15 carried the following report:

Syracuse, November 14: "A pilot from Syracuse (State of New York) has declared that he saw an enormous 'ball of fire' rise from the electric power-line linking the town of Clay to Niagara Falls immediately after the sudden stoppage of current last week which plunged vast areas of the USA and Canada into darkness.

"The pilot, Weldon Ross, a flying instructor, says that, on the evening of Tuesday November 9, he was in the vicinity of Syracuse airport, aboard a small aircraft with one of his pupils, when the lights failed. He said: 'We were flying above the power-line running to Clay from Niagara Falls, when we saw the ball of fire. It lasted for ten seconds.'"

"Another person has also said that he saw a 'ball of fire' immediately after the lights went off."

3. *Time* (November 26) has the following letter:

"Sir,—If you look at certain pictures of blacked-out New York, you can see very plainly, hovering over the city, a flying saucer. Obviously the power failure (November 9) was only a preliminary to a massive invasion by alien forces bent on destroying the human race. You must be relieved to know it wasn't Russian sabotage at all.

Harold F. Whitney,
Boston."

4. Many readers will know that the American clairvoyante Mrs. Jeane Dixon has been investigated and tested by psychiatrists and students of Parapsychology, and is rated by some of them as ranking with the greatest seers and psychics of all time. (See *A Gift of Prophecy*, by Ruth Montgomery—condensed in the *Reader's Digest* for August, 1965, under the title: *The Crystal Ball*). It is a matter of record that Mrs. Dixon has been interviewed by very puzzled Defence officials from the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, anxious to learn the source of the highly secret and classified military and political information that has appeared in her "predictions". She has also been interviewed by the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, who—understandably enough—was badly shaken when she predicted, in 1953, the launching of Russia's first sputnik, and gave the date for it too. *This prediction was made two years before any American scientists or politicians even knew that the USSR had a Space-Programme, and four years before the launching actually occurred.*

On August 14, 1963, Mrs. Dixon participated in a meeting called by a group of scientists for the purpose of probing her extrasensory gift. The scientists present included Dr. William Brewster, a research physicist at Walter Reed Army Hospital; Andrew Haley, general counsel for the International Astronautical Federation and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics; Dr. F. Regis Riesenman, a prominent psychiatrist; and James Shiner, Assistant to the director of Biotechnology and Human Research in NASA. After the meeting, Andrew Haley remarked that "apart from myself, Jeane Dixon was more knowledgeable about rockets than anyone else in the room".

Because these scientists had been so eager to

know more about future developments in the Space Race, Mrs. Dixon agreed to meditate on rockets that night, and let them know what she saw. After she had gone to bed, she had one of her visions, which came to her in the darkness and lit up the whole bedroom. She says: "I saw a silver ball, like the sputnik, rising out of Russia and going into a powerful missile which travelled round the globe to the left. Suddenly it switched course and travelled in the opposite direction. Beneath it America was all aglow, but as the missile turned, the lights of our country went out, leaving us in utter darkness. I interpreted this to mean that Russia has a secret type of missile for which we have no anti-missile missile. It is so powerful that it can completely immobilise our communications and lighting systems. It can also play havoc with the navigation of our planes".

This vision created consternation in Washington, and the C.I.A. and Pentagon were buzzing around her like bees next day, wanting to know "where she had got it from". Vice-President of the U.S.A., Hubert Humphrey, let a cat out of the bag when he admitted to her: "We have been fearful of just such a development for some time."

5. If we assume, for the moment, that it is a fact that the USSR already has such a device and that this device caused the Great Blackout of November 9 and possibly also the Texas Blackout of December 3, then how are we to explain the following items: items relating to mysterious events as far back as 1952, *more than five years before Russias' first sputnik.*

- (i) "Two hundred pumps in the Coolidge Area, Arizona, were badly damaged when electric motors driving them suddenly and unaccountably changed the direction of their rotation. Electrical engineers who rushed to the region were mystified by the sudden change of polarity in the motors, or of the current feeding them".

(*Los Angeles Times*, April 11, 1952)

- (ii) "In April 1952, a sudden and mysterious blackout of an electric power-line system in northeastern Ohio, followed two days later by an unexplained blackout of a power station at Evanston, Indiana, which lasted two hours. Experts and scientists and police puzzled. In Ohio, the power came on again as suddenly as it went off. High-line patrols went over the line, foot by foot; every piece of apparatus concerned was tested and re-tested, but found in perfect order. The power company were unusually honest and frank and said: 'The only logical assumption is that some object or foreign substance came across the line and grounded it out. But we have not the faintest clue as to what it was, nor the faintest idea why the power went off, nor why it came on again'."

(Letter from a U.S. correspondent to Harold T. Wilkins, quoted on pages 271/272 of his *Flying Saucers on the Moon*—Title of U.S. edition: *Flying Saucers on the Attack.*)

6. To conclude, I refer readers to the vitally

important items which I translated from the São Paulo (Brazil) newspapers *Ultima Hora* and *Noticias Populares* of September 24 and 25 respectively of last year. (Note that the reports never appeared in any British newspaper). These are the accounts of the blacking-out, possibly as a result of a huge flying saucer overhead, of the busy town of Cuernavaca, Mexico, and of the sequel reported by

an airline pilot. Charles Bowen has included these accounts in his article *South American Republics are Watching the Skies* which will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Readers must form their own opinion as to what all this means and, in particular, as to whether Mrs. Jeane Dixon may have erred only in the **interpretation** which she placed upon her vision.

Some Comments on Alien Involvement

By *Adrian R. E. Cox*

I WAS most interested to read Wade Wellman's Article *Sense and Speculation* in the September/October Edition. His article raised quite a few points I should like to comment upon.

1. MR. Wellman's first assertion is that the Aliens' study is not earth centred, but is directed towards the planetary system as a whole.

Surely this would depend upon the nature of their study. If they are interested purely in the physical system as such, then I would agree with him. However, if they are studying an early evolving civilisation then they must base themselves upon the earth. Again, even if they are studying all life forms, their attention will still be terra-centric. (I have never really found the idea of Martians and Venusians very convincing!).

2. The second point is rather composite and relates to Mr. Wellman's assumptions about Alien psychology—if that term has any relevance, and I think it does. His assumptions are just the sort *we* would make about an evolved race, and probably bears less actual relationship to them than—well, anything you like so long as it is far-fetched enough!

I think that of the many reasons for the Aliens' non-interference, at least one is probably just as "deflating" as Mr. Wellman's idea, but rather different. I should imagine than an unscheduled introduction of completely alien knowledge and ideas would probably have a nearly disastrous effect upon many people's sanity—even if they were comprehensible at all to man, which is on the whole rather doubtful.

Until mankind is tolerant and enlightened enough to live at peace with his own kind, contact with something as *different* as these Aliens, could quite possibly cause the very holocaust people most want to avoid.

3. The point about "taking-over" the planet surely must depend upon whether they consider such a course necessary. If they have already done

so, it is probably doubtful whether this runs to more than perhaps the odd base or so.

As for a more overt take-over, this is really an ethical consideration. For example, it may remain to be seen whether mankind can be "forcibly" evolved (rather like a greenhouse plant!) and if so whether this would prove successful or, quite frankly, a horrible disaster. I personally rather doubt that "forced-growth" would produce a stable condition psychologically. Even if they did attempt it, it would be the very devil of a delicate operation!

4. Mr. Wellman's assumption that nothing we do here will have any relevance in galactic terms appears to rely upon an implicit assumption that races remain discrete units indefinitely.

During the early stages of evolution, as on earth, this is obviously true. However, we both agree that planetary man's destiny is "out there" in deep space. Therefore, one would have thought that advanced races would tend to guard, in so far as they can, rather than to disregard the early development of an intelligent race no matter where situated. This seems to indicate that evolved races might take more than a casual interest in us (?).

These comments are largely academic since, if they so wish, Alien races could very easily establish overt contact with us on this planet. I am sure that if they do establish proper contact with earth it will not be the first time this sort of thing has happened. There may be many precedents in this galaxy alone for a breakthrough, and the difficulties they would experience here are, in general terms, unlikely to be unique.

If one thinks about it there may be a well-established technique for contacting primitive races—as we are to them!

The purpose?

This is very difficult to explain, without also describing what one means by 'mind', and why it should interest very advanced races to make the