

House of Representatives Armed Services Committee Hearing on UFOs

The official report of the Hearing on Unidentified Flying Objects by the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, at Washington D.C., on April 5, 1966, has been published by the U.S. Government Printing Office. What began as a closed hearing was thrown open to the press, TV and radio, by Chairman the Honourable L. Mendel Rivers.

One important thing to emerge from the hearing is that Project Blue Book has worked on the hypothesis that all UFO reports can be explained in conventional terms, and that it is now realised that this restricts proper scientific research. The report conveys an impression that some unidentified cases have not been followed up as well as they might have been, and at times one not only senses a measure of confusion on the part of Project Blue Book, but is led to the conclusion that the American Air Force (and indeed all other Governments) knows little more about the truth of the mysterious celestial objects than we do. Indeed, one can speculate that the cloak of secrecy had been donned merely to hide this fact.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Opening the proceedings, Chairman Rivers asked Air Force Secretary, Dr. H. Brown to "shed light on these highly illuminated objects which can't be written off as too many responsible people are concerned."

Secretary Brown, in a prepared statement, told of the investigation programme of Blue Book, of the 10,147 reports from 1947 to the end of 1965, and of the 646 unexplained cases. Types of misidentifications were mentioned, and it was stated that UFOs were neither extraterrestrial, nor were they a threat. The Secretary also attached a special report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to review Project Blue Book.

[The recommendation that a scientific panel be set up was included in the report on page iv. of the cover of the May/June issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.]

The Chairman asked the Secretary if anyone in authority alleged that these objects came from other planets or from outside the universe, and Dr. Brown replied that no one in the Air Force or executive branch has expressed such a belief.

At this point Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Air Force Scientific Consultant, and Major H. Quintanilla of Blue Book came into the picture.

Dr. Hynek read a statement in which he described three aspects of the UFO phenomenon: the widespread reports, the growing public interest, and the "flying saucer" idea of visitations from outer space which was

not warranted by the data available or by logical inference. He told how he had attempted to remain as open-minded as possible in his nineteen years as consultant, despite the fact that at first the subject seemed utterly ridiculous, and that he thought that like a craze it would die out in a short while. Yet in the last five years more reports were submitted to the Air Force than in the first five years. He felt there must be aspects worthy of scientific attention. In the past it has happened all too often that matters of great value to science were overlooked because the new phenomenon did not fit accepted scientific outlook at the time (meteorites, X-rays, and fossils were given as examples).

Later Dr. Hynek described how the Air Force used a working hypothesis that all reports had either a conventional explanation, or were misidentifications, other well-known phenomena, hallucinations, or hoaxes. He pointed out, however, that one must be aware that adherence to one hypothesis may turn out to be a road-block to research.

When his statement was concluded, Congressman Bates asked Dr. Hynek what he thought of the question as to whether anyone of scientific knowledge had concluded these phenomena come from extraterrestrial sources, and the reply was "... puzzling cases exist, but I know of no competent scientist today who would say that these objects come from outer space."

An account of the Exeter (N.H.) sighting, submitted by Mr. Raymond E. Fowler of NICAP (Mass), was read into the record. Dr. Hynek admitted it was one of the unidentified 5 per cent of cases, but added that he had not himself investigated it.

When asked about 20 well-reported, unexplained cases which he had chosen for further study [see FSR May/June 1966, P. iv of cover] Dr. Hynek gave details of a report by two students of Wisconsin University who with two other people in a car saw one evening what they first described as a police car blinker light—until they realised the light was too high. Then they thought the lights were on an aircraft about to crash, but as the object came closer they saw four huge red lights and a larger single white light. This Dr. Hynek described as escalation of explanation which, coming from intelligent, sincere individuals, he found far more interesting than reports from individuals who, having seen a light in the sky describe it as a spaceship patrolling the earth.

Describing the case further, he said he was puzzled that only the four people should see the object, and he asked himself whether it was some strange psychic projection to which they were prone.

In a reply to Congressman Nedzi, Dr. Hynek said he

FROM THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

This extract from the report submitted by Secretary to the U.S. Air Force, Dr. H. Brown, is remarkable both for its content—and its language:

"... there appears to be no verified and

fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology. Nevertheless, there is always the possibility that analysis of new sightings may provide some additions to scientific knowledge of value to the Air Force."

knew of no formal studies going on overseas, [in a reply to the *Daily Mail*—published on May 25—British Minister of Defence Denis Healey said all flying saucers reported are investigated.] He also said that although no competent scientist believes extraterrestrial intelligence is involved, the possibility should be kept open as a possible hypothesis : we should not close our minds to it.

Later in the proceedings Congressman Price spoke of satellite tracking systems, and asked if there would be a record of them (UFOs) somewhere. To which Dr. Hynek replied : " I would certainly think so, and this . . . is one of the most potent arguments against extraterrestrial visitation by intelligences, unless they were so superin-

telligent they knew how to evade completely our surveillances. I think this would be pretty difficult." He also agreed that they could be tracked if they left orbit.

Questions and answers followed concerning the UFO photographs published in *Life* magazine (April 1,—*Life International* April 18) and Chairman Rivers instructed that the negatives were to be obtained for examination by Dr. Hynek. Towards the end of the deliberations, Major Quintanilla denied that any cases involving radar sightings were unsolved. Also the point was made that many people (as was the case in the Beaver County sightings) were afraid to hand over to the Air Force negatives of photographs of alleged UFOs, for fear of confiscation.

UFOs & ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPONS

by C. Maxwell Cade

DR. BERNARD FINCH, in the January-February issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, gave a most interesting account of the electromagnetic effects which have frequently been reported in association with UFOs, and states that in his view the effects are merely incidental to the presence of the UFO. There have, however, been numerous reports of "energy beams", producing tingling sensations or partial paralysis, and these, combined with the generally "stand-offish" behaviour of the visitants suggests, to my mind, a deliberate use of electromagnetic energy as a deterrent. I do not for one moment intend to suggest anything like "Death Ray", but something more like an electrified "cow-fence".

It might be informative if these reports were critically studied after reviewing (so far as Security permits) the present state of Radiation Weapons on earth ; it is not generally realised that not only have Military Death Rays become a horrible reality, but that milder versions have ready found civil applications. The first serious attempts to produce a death ray used radio waves, but until the development of very high frequency waves (microwaves) for radar in World War II, there were no sources sufficiently intense to be of any practical use at ranges of more than a few yards. In recent years, many doctors have drawn attention to the dangers from high-intensity microwaves, such as employed in the Distant Early Warning radar chains. Intense radar waves can literally cook a man's internal organs whilst externally he appears to be unharmed ; it seems, in fact, that many deaths may have occurred due to the fields associated with those rare phenomena known as thunderbolts, or lightning balls. These

fields can exist even in the absence of any visible "ball", and probably account for cases of the following type : Dr. B. Hartwell, of Ayer, near Lowell, Massachusetts, reported to the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society that on May 12, 1890, while driving through a wood near Ayer, he saw in a clearing the crouched form of a woman. "She was in flames at the shoulders, both sides of the abdomen and legs . . ." In April 1961, the Reverend Winogene Savage reported in *Fate Magazine* a similar case in Fulham. The brother of one of his friends was awakened in the early hours of the morning by the sound of his wife's screams. In the living room, he found her lying on a rug on the floor, burning furiously, with a scintillating lightning ball hovering over her. The man was badly burned trying to put out the flames, and neighbours who answered his cries for help assisted by throwing buckets of water over the poor woman. They were rewarded with electric shocks, and it was all in vain. She died in hospital shortly afterwards. One more case (I have collected scores) will suffice : in January 1930, at Kingston, New York State, Mrs. Stanley Lake was found burned to death, her body terribly charred. Her clothing was not even scorched.

There is nothing mysterious about a mechanism which can cook a body inside its undamaged clothing ; most hospitals possess one. It is called a diathermy apparatus. It is just a short-wave radio generator arranged so that the output is absorbed by a human body. The patient sits or stands between electrodes (which do not make actual contact with him) and the radio energy is absorbed by his tissues. Since the interior of the body is moist, and thus a better electrical conductor, it