

A DAY AT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

By ARTHUR BRAY

(This article by Mr. Bray, one of Canada's leading ufologists, appeared in the winter of 1968 in the UFO quarterly Topside, 95 Centre Street, Aylmer, Que., edited by Mrs. Halford-Watkins. Copyright is held by the author who, having recently re-examined the subject, wrote us: "I have now looked into this matter thoroughly and am satisfied that the matter is still as it used to be, and that no change was made. The lack of information on the files is due solely to the fact that NRC has not been conducting investigations to speak of. It is as simple as that." We reprint the article with thanks to Mr. Bray and Mrs. Halford-Watkins.)

To spend a day in the Upper Atmosphere Research Section of the Radio and Electrical Engineering Division of NRC Ottawa perusing their UFO files is an interesting experience for a dedicated UFO researcher. I was able to arrange such a day recently through the courtesy of Dr. Peter M. Millman, head of the Upper Atmosphere Research Section.

I discovered that UFO sighting investigation is under the direction of Dr. Millman, and not Dr. R.S. Rettie as the news media repeatedly told us. NRC does not identify their files as "UFO" files, but as "Non-meteoritic Sighting Files." This is because the prime function of their section is the study of meteors. This classification then distinguishes anything else as being

other than meteoric, which could include many things.

NRC recently assumed governmental responsibility for the investigation of Canadian UFO sightings, having taken this over from the Department of National Defence, at the request of DND which considered they lacked qualified staff and facilities for adequate investigation of such phenomena.

How does NRC now stack up as our official investigating agency? They have picked up the strings where DND left off, and under the direction of the world-famous astronomer, Dr. Millman, we have a man whose mind is open to many possibilities and who readily admits that there are many puzzles for which science has no answer. However, Dr. Millman has had to accept this task in addition to his many other responsibilities, and he was assigned no additional staff. Therefore, UFO investigation is only a part-time function and the major activity consists simply of maintaining a set of files containing reports which happen to reach NRC. The reason for this is that no funds have been allocated by the government to conduct UFO investigations. This bears out a point I made in my recent book, *Science, the Public and the UFO*.^{*} All expenditures must come from existing appropriations for regular NRC activities. This, then, is the main difficulty. We cannot expect great things to come from NRC investigations when no funds are available for any large-scale or full-time activity, no matter how competent the project chief is. So, if any-