

Action Urged In Ottawa

Until the inevitable time comes that nations accept the UFO question as one demanding their serious attention, the issue must be kept alive by individuals willing to spend time and money prodding their governments to maintain some degree of interest.

In Canada one of these is Arthur Bray, a lieutenant commander in the RCN, who operates a book service in Ottawa and in 1967 published his book *Science, the Public and the UFO* (reviewed in May-June issue). The following year he made a report on the poorly financed work being done by the National Research Council to investigate UFO sightings (reprinted in our Nov.-Dec. issue from Mrs. Carol Halford-Watkins' *Topside*) and immediately afterward again went to bat with a UFO submission to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy whose proceedings have just been published.

In his submission Mr. Bray makes this analysis of Ottawa's attitude toward the UFO mystery:

Since then (Project Magnet in the 1950s), little has been done in Canada except to investigate a minor percentage of those reports reaching the government officially. There has been little or no policy direction concerning the study of this matter in Canada, and responsibility has been bounced from one department to another, with individual departments displaying interest only in so far as each department has a particular area of activity. I support this statement by the fact that my personal correspondence with high levels of government, including the former Prime Minister, always resulted in departmental replies clearly showing interest was limited to only one aspect of the problem. For example, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys (as it was known at that time) expressed a view related only to the astronomical aspect. My opinion about the interest of the Department of National Defence was confirmed when it was made clear to me recently that their prime interest was in whether any threat to national security was involved. It having been established that no such threat exists, D.N.D. then passed the task to the National Research Council, which now carries the ball. No public funds are provided specifically for this purpose and therefore any investigations are limited to what can be accomplished by using funds allotted basically for other purposes, and no staff is allowed for. This investigating responsibility is carried by Dr. Peter M. Millman, Head, Upper Atmosphere Research Section. No matter how capable the project chief may be, he cannot conduct any adequate, comprehensive and thorough investigation of the total problem without staff and without funds. NRC cannot even analyze all sightings



Arthur Bray

in Canada over the past twenty years in search of patterns, without people to do the work. They also lack the files from which to work. It is worthy of note, however, that NRC is apparently continuing its very limited activity in this field despite the Condon Report. This, at least, is an indication of clear thinking on the part of someone.

At no time, evidently, has there been any one office with an overall interest in all the many aspects of the problem, with the objective of solving the total problem, not simply parts of it, or individual sightings, which leaves the overall matter still a mystery.

Late in 1967, considerable publicity was attached to an announcement by the University of Toronto, that a UFO study was being commenced under the direction of Dr. Gordon Patterson of the Institute for Aerospace Studies. The public has not been well informed of activity of this group, other than an opening forum which conveyed the impression of being an attention-getter. In October, 1968, the press reported that this study was on the verge of collapse "owing to a lack of something to investigate, and if some good flying saucer cases don't soon crop up the Institute will have little chance of receiving a National Research grant for more costly and intensive study."

We have here the same old problem. A new study gets underway and they start out only at that point in time, ignoring the many thousands of cases already documented, which could be studied in search for patterns.

Mr. Bray observes there is a similar tendency in the U.S. for authorities to extract from the mass of evidence only what they consider of an importance known only to themselves. To this effect he quotes Dr. Robert M. L. Baker in testimony before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, House of Representatives, in 1963: