

House of Commons Debates
Question 1427 April 21, 1952

Mr. J.W. Noseworthy (York South) I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Will he make a statement to the house on the news report to the effect that jet planes were engaged last night in chasing flying saucers over southwestern Ontario.

Hon. Lionel Chevier (Minister of Transport) I take it that my hon. friends question is predicated upon the assumption that flying saucers exist. I am not in a position to say that they do. I know however, that planes over which I have jurisdiction in the D.O.T. were not chasing flying saucers in S.W. Ontario or in any other part of Canada.

Mr. Noseworthy: Then may I direct the question to the Minister of National Defense?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of Defense) This report was drawn to my attention. I looked into it and find that it almost certainly refers to an ordinary service flight of a R.A.F. Canberra plane across Canada and the middle west of the U.S. at the speed of something in the order of 500 mph.

House of Commons July 21, 1955
Question 6562-63

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the minister a few questions under this item, and I hope that he will not think that I am approaching the subject in a sense of levity. There is and has been much public concern about this subject. It would seem that the Department has been spending considerable money.

Mr. Marler: On what?

Mr. Nesbitt: Investigation of this subject. I refer to the subject of flying saucers, so called. I refer the minister to the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the special committee on broadcasting for Tuesday, May 17, 1955. As reported at page 479, Mr. W.B. Smith, who is senior regulations officer for the Department made one or two statements.

Mr. Marler: All I can tell my hon. friend is that we have spent no money whatever on the matter to which he is referring.

Mr. Nesbitt: Then I refer the minister to the minutes of the proceedings and evidence of the special committee on broadcasting for Tuesday, May 17. As reported at page 479, Mr. Smith said this;

" We operated a station for making certain measurements, out at Shirley Bay from August 1953, to about the same time in 1954, and on the basis of our measurements, which were nil, we ~~conclude~~ came to the conclusion that we had very little data of any nature to go on."

Before I pursue the question any further I ask the minister this question, Was the station operated by the DOT

Mr. Marler: My understanding is that Mr. Smith was allowed to carry out what he did do in a surplus building of the Department measuring roughly 10 square feet, with some dis-used equipment.

Mr. Nesbitt: I am very glad to hear that. But it was under the auspices of the D.O.T.

Mr. Hamilton: (York West) No wonder he did not get anything

Mr. Marler: He had our permission to do it.

Mr. Nesbitt: I am asking whether it was under the auspices of the D.O.T.

Mr. Marler: He had the permission of the Department to spend his spare time in this research.

Mr. Nesbitt: Since he had permission to spend his spare time on the matter, was the equipment he used departmental equipment, or was it privately owned equipment?

Mr. Marler: I thought that I had made that clear. That it was surplus department equipment.

Mr. Nesbitt: I see that Smith on that page says that he had very little information to go on. Perhaps the minister might answer one or two questions if he is able or cares to do so. What results did the department obtain through these researches.

Mr. Marler: Try as the hon. minister may, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that he can not make this molehill any bigger than it is. All I can say is that no useful information was obtained for this department.

Mr. Nesbitt: In that case there are only two other questions I wish to ask. Has the department received any information in this regard from any other gov't department?

Mr. Marler: Are we still on flying saucers or molehills?

Mr. Nesbitt: On flying saucers.

Mr. Marler: The answer is no.

Mr. Nesbitt : Then I have this final question. Has the gov't received any information in this regard from any other gov't particularly the U.S.

Mr. Marler : I am afraid that the question is too broad for me to answer. All I can say is that the Department has received no information of that kind.

House of Commons Debates
Question 1,416 Dec4, 1963

Mr. Winch (Vancouver East)

- 1) Is Canada co-operating with the special U.S. Project for investigation of U.F.O.s and, if so, is this entitled 'Project Magnet.'
- 2) Is ' Project Magnet ' an unpublicized, world wide operation, using specially equipped, super constellations, non-uniformed pilots and civilian scientists?
- 3) Was the late Wilbert Smith, a government scientist, the head of the Canadian section of the U.F.O. research operation?
- 4) Is any data available from ' Project Magnet ' to the general public?

Mr. Dupuis

- 1) The R.C.A.F. co-operates with the U.S. in the investigation of reports of U.F.O.s as in other matters of mutual interest, but not as a part of a special program. The U.S. program known as ' Project Magnet ' is not directed to the study of U.F.O.s.
- 2) Project Magnet is a program conducted by the naval oceanographic office of the U.S. navy concerned with the compilation of geomagnetic data covering all the oceans of the world. The data are obtained in survey flights of U.S. navy aircraft carrying civilian scientists. Information concerning this program has been freely available for some years to interested scientists.
- 3) Between Dec. 1950 and August 1954, a small program^V in the field of geo-magnetics was carried out by the telecommunications division of the D.O.T. with a view to obtaining if possible, some physical information or facts which might help to explain the phenomena which was generally referred to as U.F.O.s. Mr. W.B. Smith was the engineer in charge of this program.
- 4) It is understood that the data obtained in ' Project Magnet,' in the form of geo-magnetic charts, is available upon application to the naval oceanographic office of the U.S. navy.

DEC. 4 1963

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.

Question No. 1,416 -- Mr. Winch:

1. Is Canada co-operating with the special United States program for investigation of unidentified flying objects and, if so, is this entitled "Project Magnet"?
2. Is "Project Magnet" an unpublicized world-wide operation, using specially equipped, super constellations, non-uniformed pilots and civilian scientists?
3. Was the late Wilbert B. Smith, a government scientist, the head of the Canadian section of the U.F.O. research operation?

4. Is any data available from "Project Magnet" to the general public?

Mr. Dupuis: 1. The R.C.A.F. co-operates with the United States in the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects as in other matters of mutual interest, but not as a part of a special program. The United States program known as "Project Magnet" is not directed to the investigation of unidentified flying objects.

2. "Project Magnet" is a program conducted by the naval oceanographic office of the U.S. navy concerned with the compilation of geo-magnetic data covering all the oceans of the world. The data are obtained in survey flights of U.S. navy aircraft carrying civilian scientists. Information concerning this program has been freely available for some years to interested scientists.

3. Between December, 1950 and August 1954 a small program of investigation in the field of geo-magnetics was carried out by the then telecommunications division of the Department of Transport with a view to obtaining, if possible, some physical information or facts which might help to explain the phenomenon which was generally referred to as unidentified flying objects. Mr. W. B. Smith was the engineer in charge of this program.

DEC. 4 1963

4. It is understood that data obtained in "Project Magnet", in the form of geo-magnetic charts, is available upon application to the naval oceanographic office of the U.S. navy.

The House of Commons Debates, (Canada), Session 1963,
Volume VI, p. 5408, Wednesday, December 4, 1963.

APRIL 21, 1952.

FLYING SAUCERS.

PRESS REPORT AS TO USE OF JET PLANES.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Will he make a statement to the house on the news report to the effect that jet planes were engaged last night in chasing flying saucers over southwestern Ontario?

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Mr. Noseworthy: Then may I direct the question to the Minister of National Defence.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): This report was drawn to my attention. I looked into it and find that it almost certainly refers to an ordinary service flight of an R.A.F. Canberra plane across Canada and the middle west of the United States at a speed of something of the order of 500 miles an hour.

The House of Commons Debates, (Canada),

Session 1952, Volume II. p. 1427, Monday, April 21, 1952.

MAY 2 - 1966

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS -- INVESTIGATION BY MINES DEPARTMENT.

Question No. 1,3+5 -- Mr. Howe (Hamilton South):

1. Has the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys ever undertaken an investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects and, if so, are such investigations continuing at this time?
2. Have results of such investigations been made public and, if not, is consideration being given to making them public in future?

Hon. Jean-Luc Papin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): 1. The geological survey of Canada and the observatories branch, both of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, investigate reports of sightings commonly called unidentified flying objects. These reports refer to a wide variety of phenomena and many of these are reports of spectacular meteors entering the atmosphere, for example, the one at 8:14 p.m. EDT on April 25, 1966. These may lead to the recovery of meteorites which are of great scientific interest to scientists of the department.

2. There is no attempt to restrict the results of such investigations and officers of the department frequently comment to the various news media on this subject.

The House of Commons Debates (Canada),

Volume III, No. 67, p. 4570, Monday, May 2, 1966.

JUL 22 1963

REPORTS ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.

Question No. 949 -- Mr. Kelly:

Does the R.C.A.F., or any other government department or agency operate a centre for the compilation, collection and investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects, and, if so (a) who operates the centre (b) are the reports of the investigations available to the public (c) how may these reports be obtained?

Answer: Yes, the R.C.A.F. While it is not the policy of the department to deny the public information on unidentified flying objects such reports are not produced in published form. Investigations to date have classified the sightings as of either man made objects of which we are aware, or of natural phenomena well known in scientific circles but unfamiliar to the general public.

The House of Commons Debates, (Canada),
Session 1963, Volume III, pp. 2448-2449,
Monday, July 22, 1963.