

Investigation of UFOs hampered

Since last spring the National Research Council has been responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects, but has received no funds or additional staff to undertake the study, says an Ottawa writer on space phenomena.

Arthur Bray, in an article in the September bulletin of the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, states that because of this limitation the NRC is restricted to specific cases only, not a broad study of all cases.

"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," the article states.

Mr. Bray, a former air force pilot, is author of Science, the Public and The UFO.

Investigation of UFOs was turned over to the NRC last March from the department of national defence, which felt it lacked the qualified staff and facilities for adequate research.

Before the job was in the Ottawa Citizen,
24 Sept. 1968.

hands of the defence department, it was the responsibility of the air defence command, which concluded in 1965 that there was no evidence to suggest that UFOs posed a threat to national security.

Files destroyed

All defence command files, with the exception of a few filed with the public archives, were destroyed. Mr. Bray stated many of the defence department's files were missing when turned

over to the NRC — especially all Royal Canadian Mounted Police reports, which the RCMP had requested be returned.

In the last year the defence department had responsibility for UFOs, Mr. Bray states only eight of 167 sightings were formally investigated.

Mr. Bray concludes that because the government has not provided funds for a thorough investigation into all aspects of the phenomena, it was up to private re-

searchers to urge greater research.

Dr. Peted Millman, when questioned about Mr. Bray's article, said the NRC wasn't conducting an all-out research program into UFO sightings because there was so little to be gained.

The astronomer said the mystery had been around for 100 years or more and he could see no immediate chance of unravelling it. Little was gained by investigating sightings by just one person.