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PROJECT MAGNET

D. M.'s FILE

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In view of the somewhat sensational articles appearing in the press as to some of the researches being carried out by the Department of Transport, I wish to outline to Members of the House the scope of such undertakings.

The Department of Transport receives from time to time a variety of reasonably authenticated reports of strange objects, lights or queer effects in the sky. All reports of such phenomenae are carefully checked, analysed, and catalogued for thier possible scientific value. Many of the sightings, as may be expected, turn out to be perfectly normal objects or phenomenae, but there are a few which apparently represent something new in the field of science, in that there is no ready-made explanation for them. These are the ones of particular interest and on which we would like to have further and more scientific information. Several theories have been advanced in an effort to explain these more difficult sightings, and we can choose between these theories only through experiment and observation. We do not know what the unexplained sightings represent, but in this day and age when every available avenue of research is being explored, it would be remiss to ignore this field.

The Telecommunications Division of the Department of Transport have been studying for some time the characteristics and behaviour of the atmosphere in connection with radio wave propagation studies, which are vitally necessary in the face of a rapidly expanding radio art. The Division had left over from a previous program of radio skywave recording, a number of instruments which could be adapted for a study of certain aspects of the unidentified objects and kindred phenomenae. The modifications were made and the instruments set up in a hut near the Ionospheric Measurement Station at Shirley Bay.