

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS—REQUEST FOR
INVESTIGATION INTO REPORTS

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, shortly before the Easter recess, I raised the question of investigation into the recent sightings of unidentified flying objects in Canada.

Unidentified flying objects have been reported for centuries, from every part of the world, but only after the second war was serious investigation begun. The United States Air Force has conducted such investigations since 1947, with an attitude ranging from objective, careful study to desperate efforts to prove that U.F.O.'s do not exist.

A great many objects have been reported to the U.S. group. Several can be put down to crackpots or hoaxes, and most have been explained as aircraft, balloons, clouds and lights on clouds, stars and planets, and other naturally occurring phenomena. However, as of this month, 646 sightings remain unidentified. This is a relatively small percentage of the total reports, but still too many to be ignored. It should be remembered that the vast resources of United States government and military agencies have been brought to bear in trying to solve these cases.

A great many of the U.S. reports have come from military and civilian pilots, airport control tower personnel, radar operators, meteorologists and astronomers, all thoroughly trained to watch the sky and to know what they see there.

In several cases, an object has been observed simultaneously by radar operators, ground observers, and jet interceptor pilots. Unless we want to assume that each one of them was having the same hallucination at the same time, these sightings must remain unexplained in terms of natural phenomena.

There have been reports of U.F.O.'s in Canada for years, as there have been in every country. It has been, and still is, customary to subject the reporters of these objects to every sort of ridicule and humiliation. However, I believe that it is long past the point when we can safely assume that every one of these people is drunk, neurotic, or just lying. Most reports come from people of good reputation, whose testimony would be

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accepted without question under any other circumstances.

• (10:20 p.m.)

I wish to make clear that I do not support either side of the U.F.O. issue. There is not enough evidence to conclude that flying saucers exist, but there is too much unexplained evidence to ignore. It is my contention that the Canadian government should direct an appropriate department to conduct a continuing investigation into all reports. I believe a climate should be created in which Canadians can report what they see without fear of ridicule. The conclusions of these investigations should be published regularly. Most sightings can be shown to be naturally caused, but I suspect that even proof of visits from outer space would be more reassuring to the public than Canada's present attitude of ignoring them in hopes that they will go away.

I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what investigations Canada is now conducting, and what the government's intentions are.

Hon. Leo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): I cannot answer directly the question which was posed at the end of the hon. member's short speech. I do not personally think there is a co-ordinated effort being made now, but I believe several departments of government are interested in the subject matter referred to by the hon. member.

Speaking for the Department of National Defence, I am sure that our Defence Research Board will be interested in his remarks. It seems to me the National Research Council will also be interested and, to a lesser degree, the Department of Transport. I will do my utmost to have initiated the inquiry requested by the hon. member, and proper consultation developed between the departments concerned. I appreciate the suggestion that regular reporting on these sightings should be made. I will make it a point, at least as far as the Defence Research Board is concerned, to initiate an investigation and I trust this will have the results for which the hon. member is hoping.

AGRICULTURE—CREAM—REQUEST FOR
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUBSIDY
APPLICATIONS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I notice that neither the minister nor his parliamentary secretary is present; I would have expected that one or the other would be here to reply to the questions I intend to raise.