

**UA'S McDONALD SPEAKS**

**Scientists Urge Federal Probe Of UFO Sightings**

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Scientists told Congress Monday there were too many sightings of unidentified flying objects to rule out the possibility that Earth might be under surveillance by creatures from outer space. They urged lawmakers to support a thorough investigation.

Dr. Carl Sagan, astronomy professor at Cornell University, said if there are other technical civilizations among the hundreds of billions of stars in the Universe, "any random one of them is likely to be vastly ahead of us."

**Customs Met 214 Million Entering U.S.**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 214 million persons — an influx greater than the nation's population — entered the United States in the fiscal year which ended June 30, the Bureau of Customs reported today.

American travelers returning from abroad, foreign visitors and persons shuttling between nations were in the stream of arrivals, up 5.8 per cent from the previous year's total of 202 million.

Commissioner of Customs Lester D. Johnson reported customs collections totaled \$2.9 billion, an increase of 8.4 per cent.

All the old gimmicks and occasional new ones are being used by smugglers, customs men said. Hiding places for narcotics recently have included a stuffed armadillo, a wooden leg and a cage containing five live iguanas.

"This is a possibility I take very serious," said Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist with the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona. "If there is even a chance of surveillance, we should explore it."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory, said: "My scientific hunch . . . is that there is scientific pay dirt in the UFO phenomenon."

He urged Congress to establish and support a "UFO board of scientific inquiry" to sponsor a variety of investigations along with an "international clearing house" to correlate reports of UFO sightings from around the world.

The scientists testified at a symposium on UFOs sponsored by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

Noting UFO sightings by responsible and skeptical witnesses around the world, McDonald said: "Far too many defy our best analysis."

He said these included some cases where witnesses on the ground flashed lights into a pattern of hovering, disc-like craft which responded with flashing lights in the same pattern.

"It would be terrible if this was surveillance and our technology was represented by the Everready flashlight."

McDonald also said there were many UFO sightings reported up and down the Eastern Seaboard around the time of the Northeast power blackout in late 1965.

Since the cause of the power pulse which precipitated the blackout has never been identified, McDonald said "there is a

puzzling and slightly disturbing coincidence here."

If the Earth is being watched, Sagan said "it would be folly to ignore it . . . It is not beyond question that we could be visited."

But he warned that "to mount a major investigation requires more hard evidence than is at hand."

For the time being, Sagan said, he would favor concentrating on radio astronomy and on probes to find out whether any life exists on neighboring planets.

McDonald said if the Earth was being watched from space, it was being done by a society so advanced that to Earthmen its technology "would be indistinguishable from magic."

He said he had spent the last two years studying UFOs under a grant from the U.S. Office of Naval Research, spending several months in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania tracking down sightings.

He said there were a series of "impressive sightings" last fall in Straffordshire, England, from "no-nonsense people who were not simply having hallucinations."

**Venus May Have Rugged Terrain**

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Radar pulses beamed from Goldstone Calif., have turned up evidence that the planet Venus may have mountain ranges, craters or fields of boulders.

The report on the rugged terrain was released during the weekend by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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