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Washington Wire

McCormack Asks Hearing on UFOs

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WASHINGTON, House Leader
John W. McCormack has suggested the holding of House hearings on the Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

McCormack made it clear that he believes some of these strange objects are real and that he has never been satisfied that they are the product of imagination, that they are all familiar objects mistakenly identified.

The Air Force has publicly

maintained that all the sightings are explainable as familiar objects, such as stars, meteors, balloons and airplanes, that have been mistaken for something extraordinary.

"I feel that the Air Force has not been giving out all the information it has on Unidentified Flying Objects," the Massachusetts congressman commented today.

High Stage of Development

"These UFOs," said McCormack, speaking of the minority of

sightings that can't satisfactorily be explained away, "must be in a very high stage of development and of perfection. Whether they come from some other planet we don't know. We can't say they come from another planet till we find life on another planet. On the evidence we have, you can't pinpoint their source, where they come from."

"So many expert witnesses have seen these objects," continued the leader of the House, "including pilots, other persons with special skills in this area, persons of great responsibility, rational-minded witnesses. You can't disregard so many unimpeachable sources."

"This is not all imagination. You can't rule out all of these sightings as imagination. What these reliable witnesses have seen can't be disregarded," he emphasized.

The House leader confirmed

that some UFOs have been seen visually and on radar at the same moment and at the same spot.

"You can't put it down to atmospheric phenomena," he tersely remarked.

The Air Force has generally maintained that radar sightings have been due to an atmospheric phenomenon, the so-called temperature inversion, which involves a layer of warm air over a cold layer, resulting in bending and distorting the radar return.

The House leader concluded, "It might be well for the House Committee on Science and Astronautics to hold further hearings, either executive session or open hearings, to bring the matter up to date."

McCormack explained that about three years ago the House Committee on Space — McCormack chairnanned this committee out of which came the National

some, in our minds, that there were some objects flying around that were unexplainable," he said.

In the light of the statement by the House leader, it is recalled that a former director

of our Central Intelligence Agency, which is understood to have maintained constant touch with the UFO situation, last summer asked for a Congressional inves-

Aeronautics and Space Administration legislation and which was the predecessor of the present House Science and Astronautics Committee — held executive, or closed, hearings on the Unidentified Flying Objects.

Some Unexplainable

"We could not get much information at that time although it was pretty well established by

igation of the UFOs. Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, who headed our top secret agency in the earlier years of the Unidentified Flying Objects, termed such an investigation to be "urgent." He also gave it as his judgment that the Air Force is withholding information on the matter.