

Editorial

Thought Controllers at It Again

Ottawa's physician, Dr. Scott Corder, has been called by a healing arts board to undergo a psychiatric examination. His license is suspended until further notice. For the time being, he's declined the honor.

Dr. Corder's problem, according to the board, lies in contacts with extraterrestrial personages who may or may not be known to others. The board fears for the doctor's mental health. We're inclined to fear for the board.

To be true, Dr. Corder, with contacts in Russell and other places, relates startling stories. He's been contacted by Cepheus, who modestly admits he is a spiritual reincarnation of Apostle Peter. The doctor says he's assigned a role among 21 chosen people. He isn't sure what the part will be but he is finding more as secrets are revealed from time to time. This is the material from which stories of the supernatural and science fiction are derived. This is the kind of material from which witch hunts develop.

On the doctor's side, however, is a

history of unidentified flying objects—ranging over nearly 200 years of U.S. history and dating, according to some, back to biblical days. In fact, the present contacts are tied, those chosen ones say, to the Bible.

Not all are asked to believe and that's probably just as well, considering how skeptics thrive on rumor and hearsay. If Dr. Corder believes, it seems to us to be a matter between him and Cepheus—not a board of medical arts.

If Corder can be hounded for his beliefs, then psychiatrists have a Herculean chore ahead. If everyone who doesn't believe as you and I is to be tested, thumped, checked, probed and punched then Heaven help those free souls among us who are known to march to a different drummer, see things that may not be there and dream those impossible dreams. After all, when all is said and done, who's to decide—which is really right and which is wrong? And, for that matter, what difference does it really make?—R.T.T.