

# IF YOU SEE 'EM, YOU CAN SHOOT

There apparently is no state law making it a crime to shoot little green men who might land in the state from outer space, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Eutton said today.

Eutton was asked for an opinion by a Fredericksburg justice of the peace, John G. Goolrick, after the sheriff of Augusta County warned citizens there that even if they spotted some little green men from outer space, they had "no right to mow them down."

Some Augusta citizens had taken arms in search of the little green men, reported to have landed amid a flurry of sightings of unidentified flying objects.

"Since I am a justice of the peace (I might add that I am also a newspaper reporter), I am requesting an opinion from you as to whether any citizens could be charged under Virginia law with a crime if he shot or otherwise physically molested one of these little green men without first being harmed by such visitors or invaders from outer space."

The attorney general replied that he knew of no section of the Virginia code "that fits this situation.

"Title 18 of the Code, referring to crimes and offenses, frequently uses the word any 'person' who does such and such is guilty of the specified crime referred to in the statute. Although it is not stated clearly, the implication is that it must also be a 'person' against whom the crime is committed."

Eutton said he did not know of any one who has seen little green men "sufficiently close to be able to specify whether or not they are 'persons.'"

But he added: "Possibly some member of the Legislature from your area, if he has sufficient scientific knowledge to back up his beliefs, can have a definition added to our code as to whether 'little green men' are 'persons.'"