

Request For UFO Photo Probe Gets Mixed Reaction

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Congressmen in Orange County, Calif., have had mixed reactions to a request for a congressional investigation of photos of an unidentified object taken by a county road department investigator.

The probe was requested by

the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a private investigative agency with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The photos, taken by Rex Heflin of Santa Ana Aug. 3, were published by the Santa Ana Register Sept. 20. One of the photos was distributed by United Press International and appeared in the Mail Tribune Sept. 21.

Air Force Said 'Hoax'

The U.S. Air Force subsequently termed the pictures a "photographic hoax," claiming that on the basis of photo analysis the object was only one to three feet thick. Heflin, who was not a believer in flying saucers, estimated the object to be 30 feet in diameter and eight feet thick.

Following NICAP's request for an investigation, the Santa Ana Register reported reactions from two congressmen from Orange County.

Rep. James Utt, Santa Ana, a Republican, said he would not seek a congressional hearing unless Heflin himself requested it. Heflin has indicated he is undecided about making such a request.

Rep. Richard T. Hanna, Anaheim, a Democrat, said he felt NICAP's request should be honored.

"I want to strongly state," Hanna added, "that I feel every citizen should be accorded courteous treatment when dealing with a public agency whether it be my office or the Air Force."

"To be insulting to persons whose actions are well meaning is something that should not be condoned."

He was referring to Air Force officials' statement that the pictures were a hoax.