

U.S. Planes Ready To Pursue "Flying Saucers"

From Our Staff Correspondent and A.A.P.

NEW YORK, July 6.—American army fighter planes with guns and cameras are standing by in California and Oregon ready to pursue any "flying saucers" reported along the west coast.

Since these round objects were first reported racing across the sky on June 25, hundreds of persons in 28 States have sent in similar reports.

These reports agree on the shape of the objects, but differ on their size. Some say they are about a foot across; others that they are larger than any known aircraft.

Kenneth Anrald, a business man flying his own plane, gave the first report on June 25. He said he saw nine missiles flying in formation at 1,200 miles an hour over the State of Oregon.

"I don't believe it, but I saw it," he told interviewers.

Captain E. J. Smith, of United Airlines, later reported seeing round, flat objects for 12 minutes during a flight over Idaho. His co-pilot, Ralph Stevens, and a stewardess, Marty Morrow, confirmed his report.

From all over America, explanations are coming in. Dr. Ger-

planations are coming in. Dr. Gerhard Kuiper, director of Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, believes the objects are radio-controlled. He told Pressmen: "My guess is that the discs are controlled by our armed Services or are being sent from abroad. From their description, there is no similarity at all with meteors."

At a convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Ohio, the national commander, Louis E. Starr, announced that he would obtain a full explanation of the "saucers" from a high-placed source in Washington.

Later, he postponed his explanation, and darkly told delegates "Too little is being told the people of this country."

An official of the Hayden Planetarium said the "saucers" could be ice crystals formed by natural processes high in the sky. The first reports of them were authentic, but

later reports were due to mass hypnosis.

A professor of astronomy at Columbia University said the probable cause was the churning up of the atmosphere by speeding aircraft or birds. This caused distortion of light rays, which might create the effect of the "flying saucers."

One explanation for the "saucers" is that they may have been the new Navy "pancake" planes on test. The Navy denies, how-

on test. The Navy denies, however, that its new planes have been flown in the areas where the objects have been reported.

Other explanations, all generally rejected by scientific or military authorities, are: They are signals from Mars; they are reported by people emotionally upset by fear of atomic war; weather kites released by meteorological bureaus; something to do with atomic experiments; reflections from car headlights; meteors.