

'FLYING SAUCERS' WERE HOT AIR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (A.A.P.).—The Civil Aeronautics Administration said to-day that a temperature phenomenon was responsible for many "flying saucer" reports.

But it did not claim that this was the entire answer, and urged additional study of the matter "through observations with more versatile equipment."

The administration said its Technical Development and Evaluation Centre at Indianapolis undertook a study of "flying saucers" after a flood of reports from the administration's airplane traffic control towers.

Scores of reports came from the control towers at Washington, Atlanta, Boston,

Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis and New York.

In checking back the reports against Weather Bureau records, the administration found "that a temperature inversion almost always existed when such targets appeared on the radar."

Temperature inversion resulted when air that had been cooling with increased alti-

cooling with increased altitude suddenly started becoming warmer, creating a layer of warm air on top of a mass of cool air.

The administration said this produced a refracting surface causing reflections which travelled with the wind at, or near, the temperature inversion levels and ultimately ran into Civil Aeronautics Administration radar screens.

"These areas, possibly atmospheric eddies created by the shearing action of dissimilar air strata, were not of sufficient density to produce direct returns (on the radar), but could bend the radar beam downward to give a ground return."

NO BURSTS OF SPEED

The report said the study showed no evidence of the objects hovering or putting on any sudden spurt of speed, as some reports said.

It attributed reports of sudden bursts of speed on the part of the "saucers" to the

part of the "saucers" to the action of radar operators in switching from a fading reflection to one which was just appearing on his screen.