

SAUCER REPORTS "ALL BALLOONEY"

Australian Associated Press

LONDON, Wed.—It was "very nearly correct" to describe the recent London flying saucer story as "all ballooney," the Under-Secretary for Defence (Mr. Birch) told the House of Commons yesterday.

He had been asked what reports his department had received of the flying object seen by two airmen over London or other parts of Britain and reported to him.

Mr. Birch replied that on November 3 two experimental meteorological balloons were observed at different times, one by two officers in an R.A.F. aircraft and the other by a member of Anti-Aircraft Command.

"There was nothing peculiar about either of these occurrences," he said amid laughter.

Replying to further questions, he said the meteorological balloons were fitted with a special device to produce a large echo on a radar screen.

A member had suggested that the R.A.F. and Anti-Aircraft Command should be warned when these balloons were up so that they "really know what is happening and do not create unnecessary alarm in other quarters."

"That is where the trouble arose," Mr. Birch added.

"The two balloons in question were allowed to escape or were let off at unusual times.

"But I hope we shall have no more trouble about it."
