

# PONDER FLYING SAUCERS, OTHER FLYING THINGS

By PETER LYNE

**LONDON.**—Britain's House of Commons has been considering two objects which are very different but which both fly.

**O**NE of them is the flying saucer. The other is the *coelopa frigida*, or seaweed fly, which has been causing a nuisance to holiday-makers.

The British Government has decided that officially it will not recognise flying saucers.

This decision has been given in a House of Commons statement by Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence Nigel Birch.

Does this mean that the British might be caught napping by a saucer invasion from the Soviet Union or Mars? Probably there is no undue cause for alarm.

## On The Alert

Britain's air-detection defences are constantly on the alert. In fact that is the very reason why the flying saucer question came up in Parliament.

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It transpired that two experimental meteorological balloons had been allowed to escape without the usual warning to Royal Air Force headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

These balloons were immediately spotted by anti-aircraft watchers and by the pilot of a Royal Air Force plane as unidentified objects.

They were also reported by the Norwich Astronomical Society which described one of them as "emitting light from its dome."

As a result there was some newspaper excitement until the official explanation was forthcoming.

The Parliamentary secretary indicated he would take steps to see there would be no further confusion from unannounced balloons.

Labour member George Isaacs asked whether the

Isaacs asked whether the parliamentary secretary would agree that all the *coelopa frigida* were in fact "ballooney."

Mr. Birch replied, "I think the right honorable gentleman's appreciation is very nearly correct."

But on the other hand a British aviation firm is planning to build a flying saucer.

The firm is the Percival Aircraft Company whose technical director, Leslie Frise, has just published a design for a circular helicopter which looks exactly like a flying saucer.

The firm considers it

could be ready to operate by 1958.

The Commons has been concerned with another question about things that fly.

They are *coelopa frigida* or seaweed fly which are becoming a major nuisance on the beaches of England's south coast seaside resorts.

Apparently *coelopa frigida* have taken up unprecedented squatting rights, beneath the white cliffs of Dover and threaten to spoil holiday amenities.

Large - scale spraying operations are being undertaken.

Seagulls and other birds are playing their part in combatting the flies.

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But the situation was given a new turn when Minister for Agriculture Sir Thomas Dugdale was asked in the Commons whether he was aware that *coelopa frigida* were moving inland and attacking English Brussels sprouts.

## Support Fly

Personally I have friends in both the United States and France who would hold the view that in this latter incursion they would be in support of the *coelopa frigida*.

Their feeling is that the dominant position of the plain boiled sprout is one of the least attractive features of England.

But in any case the Minister of Agriculture told his Commons questioner, Mr. Howard Johnson, that he (Mr. Johnson) was mistaken about the identity of the fly which was attacking vegetable crops.

The landlubber fly, it seems, is the *megaselia plurispinosa*, as distinct from the seaside *coelopa frigida*.

Sir Thomas apologised for

having to use all these Latin names. But he said it was important to get the species correctly sorted out as there had been some misunderstanding already.

In the opinion of his department the real menace was the *plurispinosa*.

ace was the plurispinosa,  
which was particularly  
fond of mushrooms, and  
not the frigida.

The ministry is trying out  
various insecticides against  
the former but so far with-  
out great success.

