

Brit-Rail flying saucer shelved

LONDON, Sunday (AAP). — British Rail, which is faced with a national strike of its employees from midnight, had a bizarre program to build the world's first flying saucer, the *Sunday Telegraph* revealed in London today.

A patent for the disc-shaped nuclear-powered craft was taken out nine years ago but the idea has been quietly shelved.

The report said the radical spacecraft was designed by British Rail research staff at Derby who visualised a saucer-shaped vehicle capable of carrying 22 passengers into space.

British Rail, however, could not afford the thousands of millions of pounds required to develop

the idea.

Specifications and drawings for the patent, number 1310990, lie gathering dust in the London Patent Office.

The inventor is given as Mr Charles Osmond Frederick, who was "Manager, Track" with British Rail at the time.

A British Rail spokesman told the *Sunday Telegraph*, "Money was not available and possible cooperation from American interests did not materialise."