## **By ROBERT E. LEE** (Sponsored by the Lawyers

of North Carolina) OUTER SPACE PROBLEMS How far above the surface of the earth can a nation assert its sovereighty? International law and existing

treaties recognize that "every State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory."

The term "airspace" is legally undefined for most In general, purposes. "airspace" is where the earth's atmosphere ends and the "outer space" begins.

Article II of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, to which the United States, the Soviet Union, and about ninety other nations are parties, states that outer the other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty by means of use or occupation, or by other means." Accordingly, outer space has become a "nonnational" area.

Professor Howard J. Tanbenfeld, who has written extensively on outer space law, stated in 1969: "While no formal between airspace and outer origin. space now exist, there is presently general agreement that satellites orbited to date have not violated the sovereign territorial rights of any state. By common consent such satellites are in outer space, which by internationally agreed of all. Satellites have now in fact orbited successfully with apogees in perhaps the 70 to 80 public this summer. mile altitude range. Thus, the lowest limit at which an tours are available to all unpowered artificial satellite's persons over 12 years of age at flight can be sustained -- 9:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. every something between 70 to 100 week day except Thursday. miles above the earth--might be taken as the lower limit to the 90 minutes and is intended to regime for outer space.'

law has the legal right to send travels in "outer space" above 793-8217 in Plymouth. 

May the United States Government punish one of it's astronauts for a crime committed on a celestial body or in outer space? Yes. Article VIII of the Outer

Space Treaty provides: "A State party to the Treaty on whose registy an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on celestial bodies."

May the United States assert ownership rights to objects launched into outer space or constructed on a celestial body? Yes. The 1967 Outer Space space, including the moon and Treaty expressly so provides. The absence of ownership rights of celestial bodies does not exclude the right of a nation to own scientific instruments launched into outer space or research stations which might be set up on the moon or other celestial bodies.

Any object launched into outer space or any component part later found is to be boundary or boundaries returned to the country of its

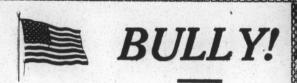
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demonstrate how plywood is No nation under international manufactured. Groups in excess of 10 persons objects across the "airspace" of should make advance another nation. No law is arrangements and may do so by violated, however, if the object contacting Weyerhaeuser at



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