

In view of recent new developments in connection with the Chunk of Hardware at Ottawa (more of which to follow), we cannot help but think that Dr. Condon, in turning down our offer, may have missed a wonderful opportunity to produce something concrete in his UFO findings - unless, of course, something positive is not exactly what he is looking for. Dr. Condon's public statements on UFO matters have not reflected a particularly positive attitude. To quote an extract from the NICAP publication "The UFO Investigator" of Oct. 1967: "Several times, however, Dr. Condon has made negative public statements about UFOs, even though he has taken no part in any field investigations of sightings. Some press media and members of the public have, therefore, questioned Condon's objectivity." With this in mind, plus the "silence" treatment meted out by Colorado to many who have offered constructive suggestions for the solution of the UFO mystery, it is small wonder that many ufologists and a large proportion of the general public fear a "whitewash" as the outcome of the investigation. Further doubts are added to general misgivings by a careful study of the AF-Colorado Contract as published in the Nov.-Dec. 1967 issue of "UFO Investigator". While NICAP officials who have worked with the Colorado project scientists at Boulder are convinced of the individual integrity of most of these men and reject the idea that all of them would enter into any secret deal with the AF, nevertheless they do point up some strange inclusions in the Contract which arouse suspicions that the USAF is expecting a negative finding. These strange items refer to Sections B1 and B2 and deal with a speeding up of the Publicity Plan and in particular, the project scientists' public statements. NICAP queries why the AF should be so anxious to speed up these statements and goes on to say: "Some critics who have been dubious from the start about an AF-financed project, may now be convinced they were right. In writing Sections B1 and B2 into the Contract, they may say the AF must even then have been fairly sure of a negative conclusion - in short, a "whitewash". They also suggest another possibility, that at the time the Contract was drawn up "Relatively few influential scientists had publicly rejected the AF answers - though many have since done so. The AF representatives might have felt certain no group of reputable scientists would accept UFO reality. It may have seemed a safe gamble to prepare this extraordinary program to put over a negative answer." However, NICAP points out that the Colorado scientists are not bound to follow the AF plan - although the Contract strongly urges them to co-operate. Apparently, already there is disagreement among the scientists, and herein lies our only hope, plus NICAP's promise to do all in its power to further an impartial scientific investigation. We should all be extremely grateful for NICAP's untiring efforts in this direction.

A word of praise should also be recorded for the Colorado scientists themselves, especially those who are working objectively on a number of diverse UFO studies. One of these includes the compilation of a world-wide bibliography of UFO literature, and in this regard, the Editor of Topside has been approached by the U.S. Library of Congress which has undertaken to prepare this bibliography for Colorado, asking for co-operation in supplying them with all available writings of the late Wilbert B. Smith, and a complete file of all the issues of Topside, which will be microfilmed. They also asked for recommendations of other UFO publications they should endeavour to acquire. We have been more than happy to co-operate fully on what appears to be a constructive and worthwhile project which, along with other UFO studies, is all to the credit side of the Colorado investigation. Whatever their ultimate findings, we feel that Dr. Condon and his group will produce a lot of valuable material from their UFO research, and we must hope for the best in the final outcome. It is interesting to recall here that in the Spring, 1965 issue of Topside, the Space Brothers predicted that governments would be turning to private UFO groups for information!