

Bill Cooper and the Need for More Research (UFOs, Conspiracies, and the JFK Assassination)

by William E. Jones & Rebecca D. Minshall

Writing about Mr. Milton William "Bill" Cooper, Dr. James A. Harder has stated that "in the eternal struggle to gain new truth, we are sometimes inclined to gloss over the errors committed by those who agree with us." (1) In his article in the October 1990 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*, Dr. Harder discusses the conspiracy story that Cooper has told an incredulous UFO reading public. He attempts to show that much of the story is probably fabricated and in error, and then concludes that Cooper "is either attempting to reap a degree of self-importance...or that he is badly deluded." (2) Dr. Harder's presentation is persuasive. Don Ecker, writing of Cooper in two "whistleblower" articles in the California *UFO* magazine (3), details a number of questionable facts and conclusions that Cooper has used in his various writings and speeches. Based upon the picture that Harder and Ecker paint of Cooper, dropping Cooper from the ranks of seriously considered UFO commentators would seem at first glance to be a reasonable thing to do.

A few short months ago, after viewing a taped version of the Las Vegas KLAS-TV show, "UFOs - The Best Evidence", we asked ourselves how the knowledge of an alleged crash of a UFO near Corona/Roswell, New Mexico and the Bob Lazar account of alien space craft held at a secret area of Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, could be kept from the public for forty-three years? Over just the past few years we've had the Pentagon Papers case, the secret bombing of Cambodia, CIA assassination plots, Watergate, Iran-Contra, the Savings and Loan scandal, and a whole host of lesser-known exposes, all of which have come into public light. Even given the explanation that the crashed and retrieved saucer story has been leaking out and has almost been proven, considering all of the material recently gathered on the Roswell event by Stanton Friedman, William Moore, Kevin Randle, Don Schmitt and others (4), the question still nagged at us. Not wanting to stop there, we began to question whether there were any indications of other successful coverups by the government concerning similar sensitive matters. We quickly came up with the Vietnam POW issue (5) and the JFK assassination. With these discoveries, we decided to have another