

group and I had been told of the plan off-record, first by Chop, later by Fournet and Ruppelt. It was such a daring scheme that at first I couldn't believe they would get away with it.

During the '52 excitement, Fournet had been the key figure in evaluating the hundreds of reports. As headquarters monitor, he knew the full UFO story and he now was convinced the secrecy should end. Because of his special assignment, he frequently had contacts with high-ranking HQ officers. Some of them, he discovered, were strongly opposed to the cover-up, and after guarded discussions they aided him in developing a plan for action.

The key was a special press conference, called with no previous announcement which would alert the opposition. Reporters first would be shown the Utah film. The Navy analysts' conclusions would follow, with no hint of AF debunking. Then the strongest UFO reports by impressive witnesses would be released, some confirmed by radar tracking, with all ordinary explanations ruled out. Finally, a new Intelligence evaluation of UFOs would be presented, drawn up by Major Fournet and based on hundreds of reports he had analyzed, with the aid of project scientists and Technical Intelligence officers. The conclusion: Alien spacecraft observing our world. There would be no hint of the AF capture attempts.²

It was an incredible plan, but with the higher officers' private help it could succeed. To reduce the chance of public alarm, the secrecy would be frankly admitted and then explained as intended to keep from frightening the country while the AF tried to learn more about UFOs; since there was no proof of any hostile purpose, the AF now felt sure the public would take the disclosure without any serious hysteria. This also would help to take the censors off the hook—indicating their genuine concern for the citizens. And once the press had the documented story, the control-officers would probably be

² Confirmed by Lt. Col. Joseph Bloomer, AF Intelligence, Capt. Ruppelt and Albert M. Chop.

afraid to deny it. At least this is what the Fournet group was counting on in this daring operation.

Before the CIA meeting Fournet decided not to mention the plan until the main discussions were over. But he still expected the scientists to accept the AF evidence and agree on the need to prepare the country.

The CIA conference began on January 12, 1953. It was controlled by three representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency—Agents Philip G. Strong and Ralph L. Clark, and CIA scientist Dr. Marshall Chadwell. After the five-day ordeal ended, a grim-faced Intelligence colonel gave me the bad news, confirmed later by Fournet, Ruppelt and Chop.

"We were double-crossed. The CIA doesn't want to prepare the public—they're trying to bury the subject. Those agents ran the whole show and the scientists followed their lead. They threw out the Utah film—said the Navy analysts were incompetent. We had over a hundred of the strongest verified reports. The agents bypassed the best ones. The scientists saw just fifteen cases, and the CIA men tried to pick holes in them. Fournet had sightings by top military and airline pilots—even scientists. The agents made it seem as if the witnesses were dopes, so the scientists brushed off the whole Fournet report—said he didn't have the slightest evidence of interplanetary spaceships. Ed Ruppelt had a program for a special tracking system and they threw that out. I know those CIA agents were only following orders, but once or twice I almost blew up."

Luckily the Fournet group had not given any hint of their secret preparation plan. In February they made a determined effort to put over the special press conference. They seemed on the verge of winning—then the CIA moved in. That afternoon, at the Pentagon, Chop told me what had happened.

"They killed the whole program. We've been ordered to work up a national debunking campaign, planting articles in magazines and arranging broadcasts to make UFO reports sound like poppycock."

called Boulder, and when I failed to get Dr. Condon I gave Saunders the news.

"It's useless for NICAP to go on. I'll have to wire Condon that we're through."

"Please wait—it'll finish the project. Give me two hours to work on it."

Later I learned that the entire group of scientists went to Dr. Condon and warned him the project could not continue without NICAP's aid. Condon was not a man to give in even under pressure; he had a bulldog-like tenacity. But he finally agreed to call me. I told him that his public statements had put us in a bad spot.

"If we kept on we could be called blind or stupid. Some of our Board members have already warned me that we might be discredited."

As before, Dr. Condon said he had been misquoted, but I pointed out that none of the statements had been publicly retracted. After thirty minutes of sometimes blunt discussion, Dr. Condon promised he would make no more UFO speeches.

"That way I won't be misquoted again," he added. He apologized for causing the trouble. "I appreciate your cooperation and I hope NICAP will continue."

When I asked about the ignored reports Condon said everything had been delayed but our evidence would be examined as soon as possible.

"On that basis," I told him, "we'll keep on helping."

Besides case evidence, we gave the CU Project copies of secrecy orders—JANAP 146 and AFR 200-2—and leads to other official documents linked with the cover-up. Among these were the 1947 Air Matériel Command analysis and opinion signed by Lieut. Gen. Nathan Twining, the 1948 Project Sign Top Secret Estimate that UFOs were interplanetary spaceships and restricted policy letters such as the one issued by the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force on Aug. 15, 1960. Labeled a policy letter for AF commanders, it contained

this statement entitled: "Air Force Keeping Watchful Eye On Aerospace":

"There is a relationship between the Air Force's interest in space surveillance and its continuous surveillance of the atmosphere near Earth for unidentified flying objects—UFOs."

But the weeks passed with no sign that this cover-up proof had had any effect on Condon or Low, or that any of the key cases had been investigated. Most of the NICAP staff were convinced, as I was, that it was useless to keep on submitting such evidence.

"Maybe there's some other way to wake him up," Gordon Lore suggested. After talking it over we hit on a new approach—concentrating on the hazards the UFOs had created. Even if the objects were only some strange natural phenomena—which we knew was impossible—they had caused some very real dangers. If we could get Condon to see this, instead of insisting on evidence of alien spacecraft, he might possibly realize there was a serious problem.

It had to be handled through Low. Saunders had told me that Dr. Condon was still angry at having to apologize for the Corning trouble and he would probably ignore anything I sent to him directly.

The next time Low visited NICAP I talked with him privately.

"There's one serious problem you and Dr. Condon may not know. It's the risk of mistaking UFO formations for a surprise Soviet attack and setting off World War III."

"With all our Early Warning safeguards? Why, that's practically impossible."

"No, it isn't. The Strategic Air Command has dispatched H-bombers several times when they mistook UFOs for a possible sneak attack."

"You have any proof of that?" said Low.

I showed him our Confidential Report to Congress, ap-

Secret or Confidential labels. Besides this proof of AF censorship, many of these reports were solid evidence of UFO reality, like the cases cited earlier.

One encounter was described by a B-29 crew in Korea. The bomber was on a routine mission when a strange flying object appeared, trailing a fiery exhaust three times its length. Turning toward the B-29, it closed in at high speed. It seemed to be on a collision course, then it swiftly nosed down and raced under the bomber.

An even closer approach was reported to the AF by a pilot in Michigan. He was flying at 3,000 feet when a disc-shaped craft suddenly appeared, coming toward him head on. Until the last moment it flew straight toward the plane, then it shot to one side. It was so close that the pilot could clearly see the polished metal shape. The UFO, he reported, was between thirty and forty feet in diameter.

Among the other long-hidden cases were reports by AF radar operators. At Larson AFB, one UFO was tracked at 950 miles an hour, faster than any known aircraft at that time. Another radar report, far more startling, showed a UFO speed of 3,700 mph. And this was recorded at a time when the Air Force was insisting there was no UFO evidence.

In the Project 3 report, the AF showed it was fully aware of the bad effect from witness ridicule. According to the project record, one group of pilots told the Air Force "they would be very reluctant to report any type of unidentified object to the AF"—and this included *Air Force* pilots. "If a space ship flew formation with me," one pilot was quoted, "I would not report it."

For the greatest effect, we decided to publish a special NICAP report on this evidence, duplicating the photocopies of the actual AF records with their Secret and Confidential classifications. By a speed-up of the printing, we were ready to submit this cover-up proof, along with our other evidence, well ahead of the hearings date.

But our optimism abruptly ended, when we learned the truth about the supposed hearings:

No criticism of the Air Force or the Colorado UFO project would be allowed.

The orders had been issued by Chairman Miller. They applied to Congressman Roush and all the other members of the Science and Astronautics Committee. The invited scientists also had been warned. Anything that might lead to disparaging statements about the AF investigation or the CU project was prohibited.

Although NICAP had played the leading role in securing the so-called hearings, we could not submit any information. Not only was our evidence blocked, we could make no comments on the discussions. No questions from the NICAP staff would be permitted, even if they were devoid of any AF or CU criticism—we could attend the meeting only as silent spectators. Although the discussions were officially called hearings, the meeting was also labeled as a symposium on unidentified flying objects, to remove any idea that this was an actual investigation.

Although the press had been invited, newsmen also were prohibited from asking questions. Some of them knew the inside story and they could have caused trouble. One correspondent, whom I had known for years, expected the muzzling order to cause a row.

"The Air Force must've pushed Miller into that," he told me. "But some of those Space Committee members are sore about it. They were all set to hit the AF and that Colorado Project. I know two who are going to try to buck the order. I'm not going to name them—"

"I think I know who you mean."

"Well, it could set off a fight, and what a story that would be. That's the only reason I'm going—I already know most of the things McDonald and the rest will bring out."

Within minutes after the symposium began, Chairman Miller repeated his warning against criticizing the Air Force.

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completed in March 1966. It recommended that rather than continue Blue Book's limited activities, the Air Force contract with a few universities to provide scientific teams to investigate selected UFO sightings. A university or nonprofit group would coordinate the teams. The O'Brien Committee concluded:

It is thought that perhaps 100 sightings a year might be subjected to this close study, and that possibly an average of 10 man days might be required per sighting so studied. The information provided by such a program might bring to light new facts of scientific value, and would almost certainly provide a far better basis than we have today for decision on a long term UFO program.¹⁰

Condon Scientific Study of UFOs 8-11-815

The members of the House Armed Services Committee repeatedly endorsed the idea of an outside UFO study. Secretary Brown took the "hint" and that same afternoon, as soon as the hearing was over, he ordered the Air Force Chief of Staff to carry out the O'Brien Committee recommendations. The next link in the chain of events had been forged.

The House Armed Services Committee hearing also marked the public break between the Air Force and Hynek. Deeply hurt by the swamp gas controversy and charges that he was the Air Force's puppet, he read a "daring" statement "which has certainly not been dictated by the Air Force." He said he felt there must be aspects of UFO reports worthy of scientific investigation. Dr. Hynek did not publicly support the idea of alien spaceships. In response to a question, he said, "Puzzling cases exist, but I know of no competent scientist today who would say that these objects come from outer space."^{11,12} That was about to change.

Dr. James E. McDonald

In March 1966, as the swamp gas controversy grew, a new figure appeared. He would play a key role in the soon-to-begin university study. Dr. James E. McDonald was a senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He specialized in cloud physics and weather modification research.¹³ McDonald was also an angry, aggressive, driven, manipulative and ambitious individual. He was a "believer" in UFOs, but had never made any public statements. With the swamp gas controversy, this changed. In late March and early April 1966, he tried to organize a small summer study (one to three people) of UFOs. This was superseded by the approval of the university study.

McDonald wanted very much to be a part of the study. In the words of a biographer, he "toots his own horn quite blatantly at this point by discussing his UFO work and academic areas of specialization which would make him an asset to a UFO study." McDonald wrote in one letter that he had heard that he was at the head of the list "to tilt with the little green men."

During the summer of 1966, McDonald made three trips to Wright-Patterson AFB to examine the Blue Book files. During his first trip, on June 6, 1966, he read a complete copy of the Robertson Report, which had been declassified in error. McDonald took notes. But when McDonald returned on June 30 and asked to photocopy the report, he was told authorization would be needed. On his third visit, he was told the CIA had decided to reclassify the document. He was shocked to learn the Robertson Panel had been sponsored by the CIA, and it only fueled McDonald's suspicions. He never made up his mind, however, whether there was a Keyhole-style "cover-up," or it was a "foul-up" (i.e., the "evidence" had been overlooked rather than hidden).¹⁴

The first trip to Blue Book also marked the start of a feud with Dr. Hynek. After examining the Blue Book files, McDonald was convinced they contained "proof" UFOs were alien spaceships. He went directly from Wright-Patterson AFB to Northwestern University to confront Hynek. In a righteous rage, he pounded on Hynek's desk and said, "How could you sit on this information for so many years without alerting the scientific community?" McDonald considered Hynek to have been scientifically dishonest, calling him "the original Menzel."¹⁵

Most of McDonald's time was taken up by lectures on UFOs to campus groups, the Rand Corporation, and NASA. His goal was to quietly build interest and acceptance for UFOs within the academic and scientific communities. In this effort, he met with some success. McDonald also researched old cases, such as Kenneth Arnold's sighting, the Mantell incident, and the Invasion of Washington. As part of this, he received a \$1,300 grant to make telephone calls to witnesses. It is important to note that none of these activities was publicized; McDonald had not yet made any public statement of his belief in UFOs. As the summer of 1966 continued, he slowly edged toward such a statement.¹⁶

That same summer, a new figure appeared on the UFO scene. He was Philip J. Klass, the senior avionics editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine. In June of 1966, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers announced it would hold a public symposium on UFOs. Klass objected, and was invited to be a panelist. As research, he

said they had not seen anything on the night of the "abduction." The site was also a mile from the Ingalls West Bank Facility shipyard. Its security cameras also observed nothing.

Eszterhas also learned Hickson had been fired from the Ingalls shipyards for "conduct unbecoming a supervisor" on November 20, 1972. According to Eszterhas, he "was borrowing money from the boys working under him, then paying them back by trying to finagle them promotions."

Soon after Hickson and Parker's story was publicized, local attorney Joe Colingo signed a contract with them to handle appearances and the selling of their personal story. Money seemed to be a central concern; Colingo told Hickson and Parker, "You ain't gonna talk" to any reporters "because none of them wants to pay." Colingo asked Eszterhas, "how much you think we can make on their Exclusive Story?" He responded that this would depend on how well it could be verified. Colingo replied, "A million, you think? I figure if we sell magazine and book and movie rights to one of the big studios, that can be a lot of money. I wish to hell *Life* magazine was still in business."²⁴

Klass's investigation cast doubt on the lie-detector test Hickson "passed." The polygraph operator had been in practice only a year. He had not been certified by his training school and would not be, owing to his failure to complete his intern training. A licensed operator told Klass he felt the polygraph operator was "inexperienced" and added, "Judging from what he told you, I doubt whether he can tell whether the subject is telling a lie or telling the truth." The test itself was superficial—in a case of this type, the test should last a full day. The operator who tested Hickson told Klass he had run a series of four tests, each lasting only three to five minutes. After the first test, the operator announced, "Hell, they're telling the truth!" Colingo had exaggerated the operator's experience—saying he had given "thousands" of tests over "several years" and claimed the test of Hickson had taken "about three hours."

Klass noted several inconsistencies in Hickson's account. He first described the creature's mouth as a "hole." Later, he called it a "slit." On the *Mike Douglas Show*, he said his eyes had been hurt by the bright lights inside the UFO, comparing it to "a welding flash." He claimed it persisted "for about three days." Yet, he did not mention any such eye injury when examined at Keesler AFB the day after the alleged incident.²⁵

As Eszterhas put it, Colingo "waited for the million dollar book and movie offers for their Exclusive Story. He waited and waited and waited and waited and he's still waiting. 'I don't understand it,' Joe

Colingo said, 'their Exclusive Story is bigger than Watergate and nobody wants to buy it'."²⁶ The Pascagoula abduction became the next step in the growing acceptance of abduction reports.

The 1973 flap peaked in mid-October. Reports continued at a high level in November, then dropped off in December. Events had intervened; angered by U.S. support of Israel, Arab countries cut off oil sales. Gas prices doubled, unemployment rose, the economy stagnated, and inflation reached double-digit rates. Many suspected it was all a plot by the "oil companies." With the new year, UFO reports again increased between January and April 1974.²⁷

Looking back, it is clear that the 1973 flap marked a basic shift in the flying saucer myth. Most of the reported sightings were of "lights in the sky." But the two cases which attracted the most attention were the Aurora "crash" and the Pascagoula abduction. The 1973 flap marked the start of a shift away from (mere) UFO sightings. By June 1974, the flap was over. Impeachment Summer had begun.

"Before the Year Is Out . . ."

During the Watergate hearings, it was learned that a recording system had been installed in the Oval Office. On July 24, 1974, the Supreme Court ruled that Nixon had to turn over the tapes to Congress. The same day, the House Judiciary Committee opened impeachment hearings. Then, on August 5, the White House released transcripts of three subpoenaed conversations, which clearly implicated Nixon in the cover-up. On August 8, 1974, Nixon announced he would resign. The following day, Vice-President Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as president. The Sixties were over.

For the believers, the years 1974 through 1977 were an optimistic time. There was a feeling that the government would soon reveal "proof" UFOs were "real." The predictions began in April 1974 with the book *Beyond Earth: Man's Contact With UFOs*. The authors, Ralph and Judy Blum, said flatly, "We predict that by 1975 the government will release definite proof that extraterrestrials are watching us."²⁸

On August 25, 1974, the *National Tattler* carried an interview with James Lorenzen of APRO. He said, "A program has been undertaken that will over the next few months make it obvious that the government has reversed its position." He said the "government will release all its information within the next three years." Lorenzen implied that

Watergate was behind this. It would be done "so it won't be left with a red face, again lessening government credibility." It would be done "little by little" to avoid panic.²⁹

On October 15, 1974, Robert S. Carr, a retired mass communications instructor, held a press conference. He said, "Five weeks ago I heard from the highest authority in Washington that before Christmas the whole UFO cover-up will be ended. There will be public admission that UFO's always have been real, and that for the past 25 years the United States government and the Air Force have known they were piloted by human-like beings."

A year later, the October 27, 1975, issue of *Midnight* quoted Robert Berry of the 20th Century UFO Bureau as saying, "The government will tell us what's been going on, in a series of television documentaries over a period of months. . . . The entire story is slated to be disclosed by the 200th anniversary of independence on July 4, 1976."³⁰

Despite the failure of all these predictions, the belief in an imminent disclosure continued. During the 1976 presidential campaign, the Democratic candidate, Jimmy Carter, said he had seen a UFO in 1969. Believers concluded that with one of their own in the White House, proof was at hand.

This seemed to be confirmed on April 18, 1977, following Carter's election, when the magazine *U.S. News & World Report* carried the following item in their "Washington Whispers" column:

OFFICIAL WORD COMING ON UFO'S: Before the year is out, the Government—perhaps the President—is expected to make what are described as "unsettling disclosures" about UFO's—unidentified flying objects. Such revelations, based on information from the CIA, would be a reversal of official policy that in the past has downgraded UFO incidents.³¹

Word of the report spread and the White House was deluged with letters from UFO believers. In July 1977, the White House press office asked presidential science adviser Frank Press for help with the UFO mail. Press wrote NASA Administrator Robert A. Frosch asking if the agency could answer the mail. Press also suggested it might be time for a new UFO study.³² *Serine 198 1128.*

NASA was agreeable about answering UFO mail, but was very reluctant to undertake any kind of UFO study. Frosch had firsthand experience with the bitter nature of the UFO debate. He had been head of Navy research and development during the controversy over McDonald's use of ONR funding for his UFO research. As a compromise, Frosch

suggested a review of UFO literature for the previous ten years to determine if any further investigation was worthwhile.^{33 34} *Handwritten: "Frosch to Press Dec 21 1977" and "did not know Sen Black Hatfield 3 Nov. 77"*

NASA made its formal response on December 21, 1977. In a letter to Press, Frosch said NASA was willing to analyze any "unexplained organic or inorganic sample." It continued, however:

There is an absence of tangible or physical evidence available for thorough laboratory analysis. And because of the absence of such evidence, we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure for investigating these phenomena. To proceed on a research task without a disciplinary framework and an exploratory technique in mind would be wasteful and probably unproductive. I do not feel that we could mount a research effort without a better starting point than we have been able to identify thus far. I would therefore propose that NASA take no steps to establish a research activity in this area or to convene a symposium on this subject.³⁵

He 21, 1977

Years of Drift

NASA's refusal to become involved with UFOs marked the end of the expectations of government disclosures. Carter's UFO sighting evaporated at this same time. It was identified as Venus by Robert Sheaffer in May 1977. American society was drifting in the 1970s. After the pain of Vietnam and Watergate, people turned inward. These were the years of the "Me Generation" and the "Age of Narcissism." People no longer believed in anything: in government, in society, in the future, or in themselves.

One reflection of these years of drift was the various "New Wave" UFO theories. These held that flying saucers were not "nuts and bolts" alien spaceships, but rather "psychic projections" that were "willed" into existence. The mind projects an image of a UFO into the sky, which becomes solid and "real." Some took this to an extreme—that "our entire reality" was only a "projection from the collective unconscious." Moreover, the whole structure of reality could be changed simply by people "wishing" it. The idea that there was no such thing as objective reality, that it was solely a product of one's own mind, is, to say the least, egocentric.

The New Wave gained a degree of acceptance for a time, but remained a fringe element of the flying saucer myth. For nearly three decades, flying saucers had been alien spaceships; it was too late to make so basic a change in the myth. By the end of the 1970s, the New Wave had crested.³⁶

scientific inquiry as "the rape of nature." They declare, "Mind was male. Nature was female, and knowledge was created as an act of aggression—a passive nature had to be interrogated, unclothed, penetrated, and compelled by man to reveal her secrets." Leonard Jeffries, one of the Afrocentrists, praised the destruction of Space Shuttle *Challenger* because it would deter whites from "spreading their filth throughout the universe."¹⁸ Such attitudes are found off campus as well. An aide to a San Diego city councilman said the 200-inch telescope on Mount Palomar "would make a good restaurant. . . . I would say, 'Nice restaurant, Palomar under the stars'."¹⁹

The alien myth both reflects and is intertwined with this atmosphere. It is based on a belief that government and society are manipulated by evil forces—in this case, the Grays rather than a fascist military-industrial complex. Both UFO skeptics and believers are seen as tools of this conspiracy. The alien myth is nihilistic, and rests not on independent inquiry, but on the revealed truth of the whistleblower. It is not considered polite to point out the contradictions in the stories. One does not ask who takes out the garbage at Dulce.

One example of the interweaving of the alien myth and extremist political beliefs is the idea that AIDS is a man-made "genocide weapon" against blacks. The original appearance of a race-specific biological weapon was a part of the mute myth and the Project Jerome story. This was in the mid 1970s, before the discovery of AIDS. Around 1980, the Soviets began to claim the U.S. had developed some kind of "ethnic weapon" that killed only nonwhites.²⁰ In 1983, the Soviets began spreading the story that AIDS was developed in a Pentagon lab.²¹ Between 1985 and 1987, the Nation of Islam began to claim that Jewish doctors were infecting black infants with AIDS and were plotting to "rule the world."²²

In 1989, with the emergence of the alien myth, there was a flurry of articles on AIDS in UFO publications. Cooper claimed the joint U.S.-Soviet leadership created AIDS to eliminate undesirable elements. *Stigmata* published an article saying AIDS was "man-made."²³ *Flying Saucer Review* carried an article suggesting AIDS was an "Alien Induced Disease Syndrome," created by the Grays, through the blood and tissue taken during cattle mutilations and the sperm and ova taken during the abductions. The intent was to kill off the human race. The magazine's editor added that AIDS might be an effort by "our owners" to cull the "herds" of "any undesirable taints."²⁴ In 1992, a black activist, who be-

lieved the stories of AIDS as a genocide weapon, made an unintentionally ironic comment, "this is not outer-space thinking."²⁵

The Future

What then is the future of the flying saucer and alien myths? In early 1992, several UFOlogists gave their differing views. Tal LeVesque said, "high-tech Fascist takeover of the planet is underway." He predicted more "disinformation" and that death threats would force some UFOlogists out of the field. Gary Schultz, director of the Secret Saucer Base Expeditions, which makes trips to a site near Area 51 said, "1992 is apparently going to be a pivotal year for UFOlogy, and perhaps for other areas of interest and study. For example, it will be the year that the elitists intend to pull off the grand unification of Europe."

A number of UFOlogists talked "in hushed tones" about a plan by "super oligarchy" to stage a landing as a precursor to an official announcement of the alien presences.

At the other end of the spectrum, Richard Hall, an ex-NICAP official said, "My immediate reaction is 'how many times have we heard this before?' I can remember at least three and perhaps four times when somebody predicted that something was coming down in the next year or two or three, and that the government would open up, or something else definitive would happen, and of course it never did."

Barry Greenwood added, "I think the subject is in big trouble. Greenwood pointed out there was a general disinterest in the subject. Public belief in UFOs dropped below fifty percent—apparently the lowest point since the 1940s. Greenwood and others blamed the fixed, absolutist viewpoints that had come to dominate the field.²⁶ The wide range of views indicate how splintered the subject of UFOs has become.

Because the alien myth is so political, it is not surprising that it was incorporated into the belief system of extremist groups. On the Ultra Right, *The Phoenix Liberator* carries "channeled" messages from "Commander Hatonn," supposedly an alien in orbit around the Earth. His communications are diatribes about Reaganomics, medieval history, and Jews. Hatonn claims America is controlled by a "secret government run by 'The Committee of 300' and 'international bankers.'" The Holocaust never happened, according to Hatonn—the photos of mountain of bodies were actually of Germans interned after the war by Eisenhower