



CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES AND THE "UFO CENTRAL" SITUATION

presented by
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The formation, development and present activities of the Center for UFO Studies make up the body of this report. Just as important as the development, is the reaction to the creation of the Center from the public, press, and the academic community. This is also contained in this report.

The Center was not a spur of the moment creation. It was rather, --long in coming. As far back as 1948 when Dr. J. Allen Hynek first became interested in the UFO phenomenon while serving as a consultant of the USAF, sorting out astronomical phenomenon misidentified as UFOs, that it all began. As he separated the identified from the unidentified, he found that at the end of each year there remained a consistent 20% unidentified.

As he traveled about the country in the normal pursuit of the business of astronomy, he discussed the UFO phenomenon with many scientists.

It was during these conversations with scientists of many academic backgrounds that he learned of their personal unpublicized interest in UFOs. This was the beginning of the formation of the group that Dr. Hynek has often referred to as the "Invisible College."

Through the years the group grew -- but the problem remained. All because they were not organized, they had no direction, nor funds to accomplish the much needed research.

Dr. Hynek continued to personally investigate UFO reports. This enabled him to amass a rather large number of the better UFO reports that came to the attention of the USAF for investigation. Some of this material was later used in his book "The UFO Experience." He selected only personally investigated multi-witnessed sighting reports.

He also was heard on radio, appeared on TV and lectured considerably in his effort to arouse serious interest in and support of a scientific study of the UFO phenomenon.

My interest in the UFO matter began in 1953 while I was living in Oklahoma City, working as a manufacturer's representative.

One evening I read a letter to the editor in the Daily Oklahoman in which the writer stated that he had been waiting for friends at the Will Rogers Airport when he noted a very strange object in the sky over the airport. He then asked if anyone else had reported any strange sight.

There was no comment beneath the letter, but in an editorial side-by-side column the editor wrote "it is a sad state of affairs when the nice people of Oklahoma can drive to Texas, buy booze, return to Oklahoma, have a few drinks, and see stupid things in the sky."