



GERALD R. FORD

March 17, 1998

Dear Mr. Filer:

My Museum officials were accurate in indicating there was no information about Congressional Hearings on Unidentified Flying Objects. Frankly, I do not recall initiating a call for such hearings. Incidentally, your letter says I was a Senator which is inaccurate. I served 25-1/2 years in the House - never in the Senate.

During my public career in Congress, as Vice President, and President, I made various requests for any information on UFOs. The official authorities always denied the UFO allegations. As a result, I have no information that may be helpful to you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "R".

Mr. George A. Filer
222 Jackson Road
Medford, NJ 08055

President Ford and Rockefeller Rally Behind UFO Investigation; Both Admit They Do Exist

By JOHN MOULDER
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President Gerald Ford and Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller are expected to lift the veil of official secrecy surrounding government information on unidentified flying objects and demand major new investigations into the UFO phenomena, TATTLER has learned.

Both men are firmly on record as believing in the existence of UFOs and in the need for the federal government to level with the public on the subject.

The two highest executives in this country have maintained their positions for years. Their influence toward revealing government knowledge about the UFO phenomena is already being felt. The Defense Department has already started baring its files and photos about UFOs.

Rockefeller, in a statement to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), said flatly that the many reported UFO sightings by reputable people should "be given all reasonable credence."

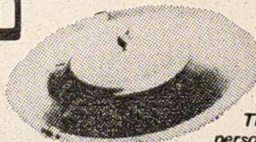
"Insofar as keeping the American people properly informed on this or any matter of national concern, it is vital to our democratic processes that the general public be promptly and completely informed," the Vice President-designate said.

Rockefeller made his statements while governor of New York before his recent nomination as Vice President.

President Ford's position is similar.

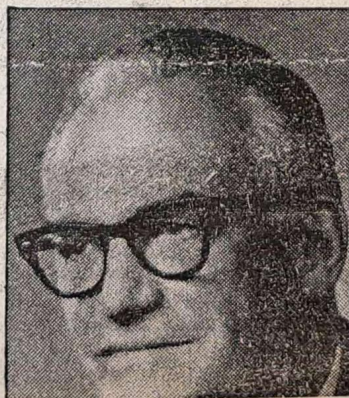
IN AN INTERVIEW with Robert D. Barry, a former New York state civil defense official and now director of the 20th Century UFO Research Bureau, Ford showed "a very deep concern" over the UFO problem.

THE UFO WATCH



More than 100 million Americans now are firmly convinced Earth is being visited by beings from other planets. Thousands have made their personal experiences known in

letters and interviews with TATTLER's staff. Countless hours and resources have been used in documenting these reports and TATTLER will continue to tell the UFO story until the final truth is known. A TATTLER Special UFO Report is still available for 50 cents from TATTLER UFO, 2717 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60639.



to discount UFOs, but I feel that any such unknown objects bear investigation."

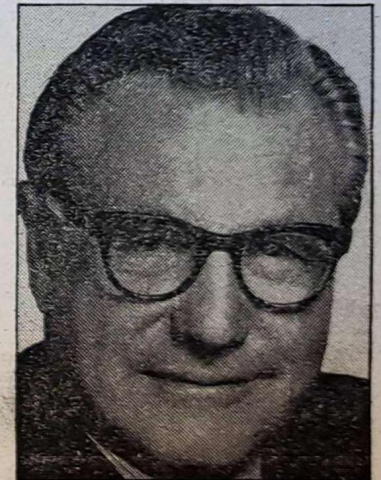
Sen. Vance Hartke, another Indiana Democrat, said "a full explanation of the 'flying saucers' seems due..."

Sen. J. Glenn Beall, R-Md., said as far back as 1959:

"There are those who dismiss the idea of flying saucers from other planets as preposterous. Isn't it stupid - and conceited - for us human beings to think no one else in the universe is as intelligent as we

THE NATIONAL TATTLER

OCTOBER 13, 1974



PRESIDENT FORD and his vice president, Nelson Rockefeller, are on record as believing that UFOs do exist and both men have cited the need for major investigations in the phenomena.

THE GOVERNMENT has previously consistently denied the existence of UFOs.

Some factors Lorenzen took into consideration in forming his conclusions include the government's cooperation with film companies producing documentaries on UFOs - a reversal of official position.

Lorenzen also noted that "in-

ternational political competition" is another factor - fear by the U.S. that another country might upstage America by acknowledging that UFOs exist.

The U.S. position on UFOs will likely soon be thrust into the open now that the country's top leaders are among those who haven't hesitated, to make their beliefs known.

Peter Sellers Says: 'Talk to My Dead Mother'

Vice President-designate said.

Rockefeller made his statements while governor of New York before his recent nomination as Vice President.

President Ford's position is similar.

IN AN INTERVIEW with Robert D. Barry, a former New York state civil defense official and now director of the 20th Century UFO Research Bureau, Ford showed "a very deep concern" over the UFO problem.

Barry, a veteran UFO researcher who has interviewed many public officials on the subject, told TATTLER Ford told him in a tape-recorded interview that he wants the government to conduct a new, very serious scientific study of unidentified flying objects.

"Ford was very put out with the Condon Report (a governmental report which whitewashed the UFO subject)," said Barry.

A NICAP spokesman told TATTLER Ford has for some time expressed interest in the UFO phenomena.

"The President feels the government should not have shut down its UFO investigations," the spokesman said.

THE REVELATION that the President and Vice President of the United States are concerned with the UFO phenomena comes only a few months after national pollsters found that more than half of the American people believe the UFOs exist and are coming from other planets to visit us.

Indeed, polls showed that more than 15 million Americans claim to have seen UFOs.

Ford and Rockefeller will have little trouble finding political sup-

Spectral UFO report is still available for 50 cents from TATTLER, 2717 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60639.



SEN. GOLDWATER ... another strong voice in favor of a UFO investigation.

port for their position of giving the public the full truth about UFOs.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, considered by many as the titular head of the Republican Party and its nominee for President in 1964, believes strongly that UFOs exist and should be officially investigated.

Goldwater backed up his position that Earth is being visited by people from other planets by consenting to serve on the board of directors of NICAP.

OTHER MEMBERS of Congress take strong positions that reported UFO sightings, rather than being scoffed at as they have been in the past, should be pursued vigorously by governmental agencies.

Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., said: "I, too, am interested in these aerial phenomena. Some people tend

to discount UFOs, but I feel that any such unknown objects bear investigation."

Sen. Vance Hartke, another Indiana Democrat, said "a full explanation of the 'flying saucers' seems due..."

Sen. J. Glenn Beall, R-Md., said as far back as 1959:

"There are those who dismiss the idea of flying saucers from other planets as preposterous. Isn't it stupid - and conceited - for us human beings to think no one else in the universe is as intelligent as we are?"

UFOs HAVE been sighted all over the United States and the world since World War II. The Air Force signed a \$500,000 contract with the University of Colorado to make a scientific investigation on unidentified flying objects.

Five years ago, the committee, headed by the late Dr. Edward U. Condon, issued a report whitewashing the UFOs from the sky.

But the report didn't slow down the public sightings of UFOs.

A wave of sightings - the more dramatic ones being published in TATTLER - mushroomed throughout the nation in late 1973 and during the first few months of this year.

L.J. Lorenzen, executive director of the Tucson-based Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, America's most conservative UFO research group, told TATTLER recently that the Department of Defense has decided to acknowledge that flying saucers from other planets do exist.

"A program has been undertaken that will, over the next few months, make it obvious that the government has reversed its position," said Lorenzen.

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Some factors Lorenzen took into consideration in forming his conclusions include the government's cooperation with film companies producing documentaries on UFOs - a reversal of official position.

Lorenzen also noted that "in-

ternational political competition" is another factor - fear by the U.S. that another country might upstage America by acknowledging that UFOs exist.

The U.S. position on UFOs will likely soon be thrust into the open now that the country's top leaders are among those who haven't hesitated to make their beliefs known.

Peter Sellers Says: 'I Talk to My Dead Mother'

Spurred to an intense interest in psychic phenomenon by a brush with death, Peter Sellers frequently communicates with his mother who died in 1967.



"She's always around," the 47-year-old actor told TATTLER. "It doesn't matter where I go or what I'm doing, I hear her words clearly. And whenever I'm feeling low, she comes around to cheer me up."

Following his near-fatal heart attack 10 years ago, Sellers began exploring the world beyond the veil of death - spiritualism, clairvoyance and life after death.

"I've been going to a medium who is 75 years old, a marvelous lady," he revealed. "Some of the results have been extraordinary."

"To be honest, I have yet to be totally convinced of spiritualism. So, I'm going through every member of my family, trying to reach anyone I can. I've tried to reach them round a table and through a medium."

His mother, Agnes Sellers, died in January 1967, at age 72. His father, William Sellers, died when he was 68, in October 1962.

"My mother has been the most forthcoming," he explains. "It's amazing. She says exactly the same things she used to say to me when she was on this planet."

"I hear her saying: 'Come on, darling, have a glass of port.' I don't drink port, but she's always at me to try it. I think she just wants to talk to me."

"It's lovely to feel she's still around, taking an interest in me."

"My mother was a very strong-willed lady. I've literally seen mediums thrown about by her when she enters them."

Sellers denies that his interest in such phenomenon is based on fear of his own destiny.

"I'm as curious as anyone about what happens after death," he concedes. "But I'm particularly interested in where people go and what happens to the spirit."

C O P Y

March 28, 1966

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Science and Astronautics Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairmen Miller and Rivers:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date, I am proposing that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the Armed Services Committee of the House schedule hearings on the subject of UFO's and invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO's.

I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

May I first call to your attention a column by Roscoe Drummond, published last Sunday in which Mr. Drummond says, "Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary or unreal; but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting."

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together to one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trustworthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it."

"The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

I agree fully with Mr. Drummond's statements. I also suggest you scan the enclosed series of six articles by Bulkley Griffin of the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau here. In the last of his articles, published last January, Mr. Griffin says, "A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentification of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft."

I have just today received a number of telegrams urging a congressional investigation of UFO's. One is from retired Air Force Col. Harold R. Brown, Ardmore, Tennessee, who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oregon, reads, "Nine out of ten people want truth of UFO's Press your investigation to the fullest."

(MORE)

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Page Two
March 28, 1966

Ronald Collier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from M.I.T.," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the AF name for its study and verdicts on UFO reports) known to the people."

Are we to assume that everyone who says he has seen UFO's is an unreliable witness?

A UPI story out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrell of Station WJR, Detroit, cites an eye witness account of a recent UFO sighting by Emile Grenier of Ann Arbor, an aeronautical engineer employed by Ford Motor Company. He points out that an aeronautical engineer can hardly be considered an untrustworthy witness.

In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena.

I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFO's and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

/s/

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:plr

Enclosures

#



Ford UFO Talk

Ford UFO Mail

Gerald Ford UFOs

UFO Letter

Ford UFO Letter

One of the key questions in the UFO world is who has knowledge about the UFO truth. As the President of the United States is the chief Executive Officer for the Government, and is Commander in Chief for the US military, it is assumed that the President, would with more than one dozen intelligence agencies reporting to him, be fully aware of what the true UFO situation is.

Below is a letter from Gerald Ford written to George Filer who was a former intelligence officer for the Air Force. It clearly seems to indicate that the President may not know what is going on. If this is the case it would mean that either 1) There is nothing to the UFO mystery beyond misidentifications of natural phenomena as the Air Force has maintained for years 2) Someone other than the President is running the UFO situation and possibly the country as well.



GERALD R. FORD

March 17, 1998

Dear Mr. Filer:

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During my public career in Congress, as Vice President, and President, I made various requests for any information on UFOs. The official authorities always denied the UFO allegations. As a result, I have no information that may be helpful to you.

Best regards,

Mr. George A. Filer
222 Jackson Road
Medford, NJ 08055

There are other comments made by President Bill Clinton that seem to support what Ford said to George Filer in the letter. In a chance encounter with UFO researcher Dr. Steven Greer the President answered about his UFO knowledge.

"President kind of chuckled about it in a sense...." Greer told radio show Coast to Coast. "The President said even he didn't have the background on it. That he couldn't get this information out...that there were people beyond him."^[i]

In an encounter with long time White House reporter Sarah McClendon President Clinton made a similar statement, "Sarah, there's a government inside the government, and I don't control it."^[ii]

Lastly in a speech in Hong Kong in 1995 Clinton seemed to clearly state to the audience that he had tried to get the UFO information but had been stymied. "I did attempt to find out if there were any secret government documents that revealed things. If there were, they were concealed from me too. And if there were, well I wouldn't be the first American president that underlings have lied to, or that

career bureaucrats have waited out.”^[iii]

Despite this there is still a chance that the President is in control and does know what is going on. After all no President is going to come out and reveal secret classified material especially if it involves Top Secret black budget technology.

This notion is supported by the fact that a friend of mine (who I trust implicitly) actually had a short conversation with Gerald Ford. In that conversation Ford confirmed that he had received a briefing on the subject, but that he would never acknowledge publicly that he had received it.

Another source that I have much less faith in told me the Ford briefing took place on August 2, 1973 in one of the War Rooms.

Let us hope the President is told, because if he is not told about this subject, there is a good chance that there is a lot more he is not being told by those who would ultimately be running the country.

^[i] Steven Greer on radio show Coast to Coast

^[ii] ibid

^[iii] Lara Wozniak "Clinton's Worldview: Part Two, September 14, 2005

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

September 2, 1966

Mr. Raymond G. Konley
1815 E. Nembarry Blvd., Apt. E
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Dear Mr. Konley:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter enclosing the interview with Major Donald E. Keyhoe, regarding UFO's.

As you know I have expressed a good deal of concern about this problem and about my opinion that the American people are entitled to all the facts on flying saucers.

It is for this reason that I urged, and continue to urge a Congressional investigation. As you probably know I wrote to the chairman of the two committees concerned and did all that I could to see that such a hearing was held.

However, as you also know, we Republicans are outnumbered in the Congress by more than 2-to-1 therefore I cannot be as effective as I would like to be because we simply don't have the numbers. Your support for Republican candidates at the polls would be appreciated because we are going to need backing if we are going to be successful in getting the UFO story told.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

*Curtis Peeler
1998 Smithsonian
Institution Press*

tween the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in texture.

After watching for several minutes, the lights intensified, then went out with a sound like a rifle ricochet. Mannor and his son said the object passed over them in an instant.¹

The next night, March 21, 1966, a second sighting was made at Hillsdale, Michigan, by eighty-seven coeds at a Hillsdale College dorm, a civil defense director, and an assistant dean. The incident began when a report was made from the women's dorm that blue, red, and white lights were visible to the east near the ground. The State Police were called, but found nothing. Reports of lights in a swampy area continued to come from the dorm. The lights were later described as "a fairly bright red light and two yellowish lights, resembling Christmas tree lights." One witness reported seeing a convex-shaped object between the lights; others saw only the lights.²

Swamp Gas

Word of the twin sightings spread nationwide within hours and Blue Book was deluged with calls from newspapers, radio and television stations, and *Life* magazine.³ Dr. Hynek was sent to investigate the sightings. The intense press interest made it almost impossible to interview witnesses. None of the witnesses was able to adequately describe the brightness or angular speed of the lights. Hynek later called the three days "general bedlam."

Given the confusing accounts, Dr. Hynek had to look for common elements—both cases were associated with swamps, the lights were described as small, reddish yellow and green with a general yellow glow, which moved slowly and smoothly, with a tendency to suddenly disappear in one place and reappear at another. The few accounts of the lights having a shape were made from too great a distance to be reliable.

With press interest and excitement reaching a "fever pitch," Hynek decided to hold a press conference on March 26, 1966. Several University of Michigan scientists suggested the sightings had been caused by "swamp lights," also called will-o'-the-wisp or fox fire. These lights are caused by decaying vegetation releasing methane, hydrogen sulfide and phosphine. Impurities in the phosphine spontaneously ignite in contact with air, creating a glowing light. The lights are dim, move erratically

and sometimes give off a "popping" sound (similar to the ricochet sound Mannor heard).⁴

Dr. Hynek's press conference was a critical event in the history of the flying saucer myth. He stated his conclusions and the reasons behind them. But all the press heard were the two words "marsh gas." Or, as the headlines later put it, "Swamp Gas."⁵

The result of the press conference was an immediate, almost universal, hostile reaction. The headline in a *South Bend Tribune* editorial read: AIR FORCE INSULTS PUBLIC WITH SWAMP-GAS THEORY. The *Richmond News Leader* said, "It is high time for the Air Force to cease suppressing any hard evidence relating to such phenomena" and called for it to halt the policy of attempting "to discredit the testimony of witnesses."⁶ The *New Yorker* magazine was even more outspoken: "We read the official explanation with sheer delight, marveling at their stupendous inadequacy. Marsh gas, indeed! Marsh gas is more appropriate an image of that special tediousness one glimpses in even the best scientific minds."⁷

The incident struck a chord with both public and press. For one thing, the phrase "Swamp Gas" sounds funny, with its implication of a tenuous nature and a bad smell. A more important reason was the assumption that swamp gas was being given as the *only* explanation for *all* UFO sightings. But Hynek never said it was. In the introduction to his press conference, he clearly stated his solution was *only* for the Dexter-Hillsdale sightings. In the savage merriment that followed, that was ignored.

Because of the swamp gas controversy, UFOs again began to attract congressional interest. Michigan Congressmen Weston E. Vivian and Gerald R. Ford officially requested that the House Armed Services Committee hold hearings. Ford said, "The American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force."⁸

The hearings were approved and held on April 5, 1966. Air Force Secretary Harold D. Brown, Dr. Hynek, and Major Quintanilla testified. Brown stated the official position—that there was no proof UFOs were extraterrestrial or were a threat. When Chairman L. Mendel Rivers asked if anyone in authority accepted the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis, Brown said no one in the Air Force or executive branch had expressed such a belief.

The most important part of Brown's testimony was that he was considering the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book.⁹ Called the "O'Brien Committee" after its chairman, Dr. Brian O'Brien of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the report was



United States Senate

Rec. Comm. J. 100
MAY 9, 1966
-R.E.B.

May 6, 1966

Mr. Robert Barrow

Dear Mr. Barrow:

I appreciate receiving your views and comments on the subject of unidentified flying objects and in reply let me say that I would have no objections to having hearings held for the purpose of discussing this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Everett M. Dirksen".

Everett McKinley Dirksen

phenomenon. Hynek's statement in Detroit was such a caricature that it is violently rejected by the public—the same public that would have ridiculed and crucified him only a month ago if he had argued that UFOs deserved scientific study, and a significant expense of taxpayers' money.

It is hard to keep a cool head in this crisis. NICAP plans to give a press conference tomorrow in Washington; Congress may well start new hearings this time, a possibility that scares the Air Force out of its wits.

Hynek has just told us that if he was called before Congress he would hide nothing. He would expose the sloppy investigative methods Blue Book has been using all along. He even asked me to leak a copy of the full text of his Detroit statement to NICAP; it contained a recommendation for scientific study which all the media have ignored:

The Air Force has asked me to make a statement on my findings to date. This I am happy to do, provided it is clearly understood that my statement will refer to the two principal events as reported to me: the event near Dexter, Michigan, on March 20, and a similar one at Hillsdale, Michigan, on March 21. *It does not cover the hundreds of unexplained reports . . .* I have recommended in my capacity as scientific consultant, that competent scientists quietly study such cases. . . . There may be much of potential value to science in such events.

All the journalists, naturally, ignored this cautious preamble, and focused entirely on the misleading "marsh gas" explanation. But Hynek deserved it; why did he have to say, "A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space"!

Chicago. Saturday 2 April 1966.

This week I finished writing our proposal. A media storm is now raging against the Air Force. Congressman Gerald Ford, the Republican from Michigan, has expressed outrage at the suggestion that his constituents couldn't tell marsh gas from spaceships, and he has written a formal letter to the Armed Services Committee of the House to demand immediate hearings. But who will get the job of studying the problem? Can the Air Force be trusted to be unbiased? What about NASA? The Space Committee of the Sen-

Forbidden Science Vallee Marlowe & Co
1976

ate, which controls all the big NASA decisions, has already rejected any notion of considering the UFO question. Congressman Rumsfeld, whom Hynek knows fairly well, has explained to him that NASA didn't want to tarnish its image. So they threw the hot potato back to the Armed Services Committee. Perhaps they know that some dark and horrible secret may lurk in the basement, and they want no part of uncovering it.

On Friday morning Hynek left for Dayton, expecting to see Quintanilla in Wright Field, but the major had already left for Washington, where he will stay for six days at the disposal of the committee, ready to testify. Hynek just called me to say that he had to be in Washington himself next Tuesday. He wants to see me over the weekend to help him prepare his statement, which will be part of the record.

"You ought to see the Air Force people," he said with glee. "they're running around like chickens with their heads cut off!"

Chicago. Thursday 7 April 1966.

The hearings started with the committee in executive session, but the doors were soon opened to the press and to the public. Hynek made his statement without clearing it first or even showing it to Quintanilla. Things were so rushed that he didn't even have time to retype it, so what he pulled before the congressmen were my four sheets of yellow paper covered with the wobbly type of my tired machine.

He was somber when I called him yesterday morning.

"We've gone too fast," he said. "Maybe we've blown our big chance."

The Secretary of the Air Force, Harold Brown, said in his testimony that he was in favor of having a new scientific committee study the 648 reports that are still carried as "Unidentified" in the files. Now Hynek is afraid the Air Force will think he is too independent and will push him aside.

Things were different at noon today. Bill and I had to wait half an hour for Hynek, who was in a phone conversation with an editor of *Science* magazine who had just read *Anatomy*. "Yes," said Hynek, "Vallee is a solid guy."

"Does his book describe the phenomenon accurately and fairly?"
"I think so."

Forbidden Science Jacques Vallee Marlowe & Co NY 1976

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 13, 1968

RECEIVED ON
MAY 16, 1968
-R.E.B.

Mr. Robert E. Barrow

Dear Mr. Barrow:

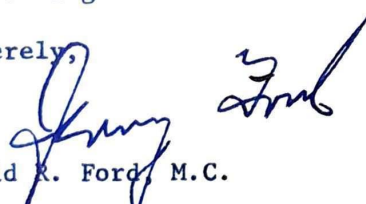
May I thank you most sincerely for your recent letter and for your interest in unidentified flying objects.

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this subject. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966.

I can assure you that I share your concern and am disturbed by the recent article in Look magazine relative to the investigation of UFOs at the University of Colorado. I sincerely hope that the investigation will prove to be worthwhile.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,


Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:h

Some might accuse you of "doctoring" the letter because my own address is missing, but I actually removed it myself before ARGOSY UFO published it -- simply on the basis of obvious privacy considerations and nothing else. Otherwise, the letter was left untouched. I had other letters from Mr. Ford, but nothing quite as profound as the one you feature on your website.

I just thought you would like to know.
Robert Barrow

I responded to Mr. Barrow's email:

Thank you for taking the time to contact us concerning your now-historic letter from then-Congressman Ford. We appreciate your clarifying the missing address as well as authenticating the letter itself. If it is alright with you, we will add your note to our next Document of the Week as an addendum.

With best wishes,

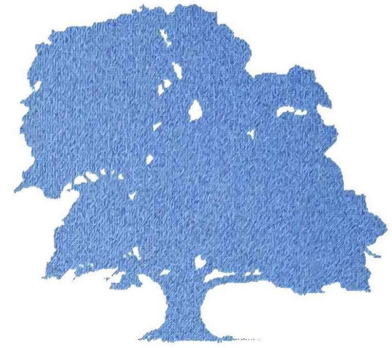
And he wrote back:

Hello Peter,

Thank you for your reply, and if you wish to feature on your web site my note authenticating my 1968 letter from Gerald Ford, or anything from this one, please feel free. If you find it necessary to include my e-mail address, that would be okay, too. Time (whatever THAT is) certainly is fleeting; A month after receiving that letter, I left for the U.S. Air Force for four years during the Vietnam Era, serving in a medical capacity. Thinking back on the years that have passed, I'm beginning to feel like an ancient ruin(!). I don't do much in the UFO area anymore, but Francis Ridge and the NICAP site have kindly put some of my older articles on the web (perhaps Francis sent you the Ford letter, as I had provided it to him some time back). I haven't really explored UFOCITY much until recently, so I was unaware of what a wonderful and informative place it is indeed. May your fine work continue, and thanks again for your interest in my government document antiquities. --

Robert Barrow robertbarrow@usadatanet.net August 7, 2001

Robert Barrow



November 26, 2001

Mr. Grant Cameron
649 Silverstone Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

4167 Cleveland Road
Syracuse, NY 13215 U.S.A.
315-469-4534
robertbarrow@usadatanet.net

Dear Grant,

As requested, enclosed is a copy of my old article, "How Presidents Have Handled the Topic of UFOs," as it appeared in the Winter 1977-78 issue of Argosy UFO, a companion publication to Argosy Magazine. If you wish to use the complete article or any portion on your web site, feel free.

In addition, I have enclosed a copy of the issue cover, which makes reference to the article at the very bottom, and a copy of the original Gerald Ford letter, far superior visually to the tiny print in the Argosy UFO version.

I would request, please, if you place the Ford letter on your web site, that you obliterate my address much the same as it is in the magazine, as it still remains current after all these years, and I really don't seek out the unreasonably curious among us. I never have a problem with circulation of my e-mail address, but the home address is another matter, as I'm sure you understand.

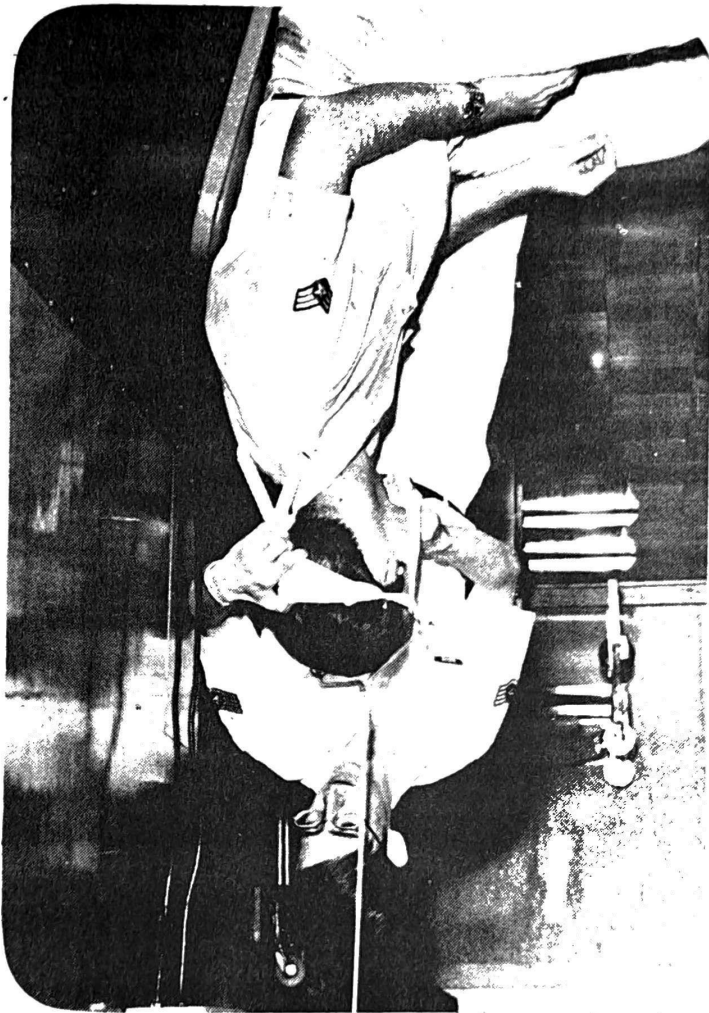
Nothing to be returned, use what you like or not. Thanks again for your interest, Grant, and my e-mail address is also listed above for your convenience, should you need to reach me.

Sincerely,

Robert Barrow

Encl. Article and related enclosures

In the physical therapy section of the Moody USAF Hospital, SSGT. Robert Barrow adjusts a traction machine for use on a patient with a neck injury. (U. S. Air Force Photo)



12 * THE METEOR * Thursday, April 6, 1972

This is from the Moody AFB, Georgia, base newspaper, printed two months before my discharge. I operated my own clinic at Moody AFB. Mr. Ford's letter had arrived in 1968, about a month before I entered the Air Force.

Robert Nov 26 01

ARGOSY **UFOs: The Demonology Connection**



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**Air
Force's
Secret
War
Against
UFOs**

**How Computers Aid In
Evaluating Motion
Pictures Of UFOs**

**Review Of A Most
Remarkable UFO
Documentary Film**

**Carlos Allende Letters:
Key To The UFO Mystery?**

**Center For UFO Studies: Its
Mission In UFO Research**

How To Teach A Course On UFOs

How Presidents Handled The UFO Issue

UFO

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the next 10 years.**



How Presidents Have Handled The Topic Of **UFOs**

BY ROBERT BARROW

Two men voiced their concern over the existence of UFOs before assuming the highest elective office in this country: former President Gerald R. Ford and President Jimmy Carter. As House Minority Leader, Ford called for Congressional inquiries into the nature of UFO sightings, but he did nothing on the subject while President. And Carter, who sighted a UFO himself prior to becoming President, has let the UFO issue slide into obscurity while in office.

artwork by Edward J. Weber, Jr.

For a tiny fraction of Americans and individuals in other lands, the 1976 Presidential elections had more at stake than economics, national defense and foreign policy. To those who have spent many years examining the subject of UFOs, the UFO was as important a campaign issue as any.

Of course, the situation was con-

siderably less complex back in 1947, when UFO reports first began to see national prominence in this country. When a reporter asked President Truman, during a press conference, if he ever saw a "flying saucer," Truman merely laughed and shrugged off the topic by replying that his only familiarity with saucers was what he read in the newspapers.

Thirty years later, UFOs are still with us, whatever they are. They did not go away, despite all the skeptical claims and "expert" as-

ARGOSY UFO

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MICHIGAN OFFICE:
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS
ZIP 49502

May 13, 1968

Mr. Robert E. Barrow
Syracuse, New York

Dear Mr. Barrow:

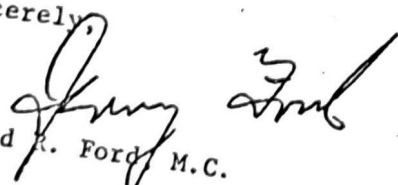
May I thank you most sincerely for your recent letter and for your interest in unidentified flying objects.

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this subject. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966.

I can assure you that I share your concern and am disturbed by the recent article in Look magazine relative to the investigation of UFOs at the University of Colorado. I sincerely hope that the investigation will prove to be worthwhile.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,


Gerald R. Ford M.C.

GRF:h



surances to the contrary. In the seventies, a growing number of trained and influential people are investigating UFOs in deadly earnest.

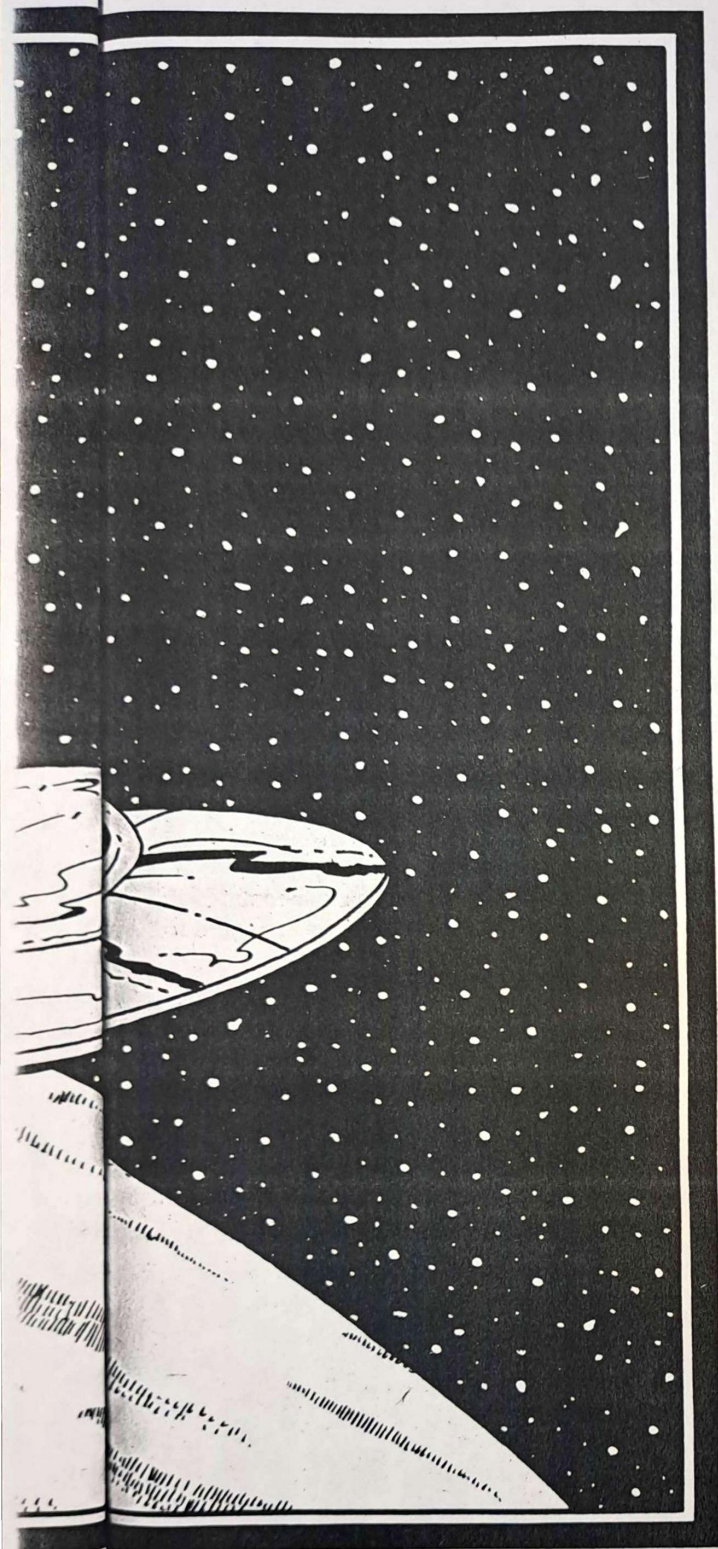
However, UFOs are not only a scientific concern. They are a Presidential enigma as well,

A few months ago, President Jimmy Carter, then on the campaign trail, told a reporter from the *National Enquirer*, "If I become President I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public, and the scientists." This was

hardly an ill-considered promise. In 1973, Carter and a group of friends saw what they believed to be a UFO.

"It was big," Carter told reporters, "it was very bright, it changed colors and it was about the size of the moon." The thing remained in

ARGOSY UFO



view about 10 minutes, and its identity is still unknown.

"One thing's for sure," commented the future President, "I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky . . . I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one."

The big question for UFO research now is, can Jimmy Carter carry out his promise? My own concern is particularly spirited on this issue, because I recall another U.S. President who was once extremely involved with the UFO subject. However, once in office, he never again tackled the problem. His name? Gerald R. Ford.

Soon after I began my own pursuit of the UFO anomaly in 1963, I started an incessant letter-writing project, a practice to which I still resort occasionally. I wrote anybody and everybody who might be able to help me learn about UFOs.

During 1965 and 1966, I found many of my queries going to public officials. The late Senator Everett M. Dirksen, for instance, responded to my letter by indicating that, if there was a possibility of having Congressional hearings on UFO's he would pose no objections. The late Senator Robert F. Kennedy answered my letters several times, indicating skepticism—but also an open mind—on the existence of UFOs.

And then there were letters to and from Mr. Ford. But some background must be offered before continuing.

During early 1966, Ford's home state of Michigan experienced a variety of fascinating UFO sightings. These incidents, regrettably, became popularly known as the "swamp gas" sightings, although former Air Force UFO consultant J. Allen Hynek only intended marsh gas as a probable explanation for reports in a couple of areas.

Ford, then a Michigan Congressman and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, became outraged with the Air Force's investigation of the reports. In addition, his office was deluged with letters, telegrams and phone calls

from anxious constituents and UFO observers who demanded that the official investigation should *itself* be investigated.

On March 25, 1966, the first of two important Ford press releases appeared. The minority leader was calling for a full Congressional UFO inquiry. On March 28, yet another press release surfaced; attached was a copy of a letter Ford was sending to the Chairmen of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, and the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Ford's wishes were unmistakably clear. He wanted a Congressional inquiry, and quickly.

The Michigan Congressman got his wish. On April 5, 1966, Congress held an *open* hearing on UFOs, an unprecedented move. While the hearing failed to accomplish as much as it might have, it produced an Air Force promise that arrangements would be made for an impartial, civilian investigation.

On October 7, 1966, the Air Force announced that the University of Colorado would undertake an open-minded UFO study, free of government influence.

And this is where letters I received from Mr. Ford enter the story.

The letter reproduced here is one of several on UFOs I had from Ford during 1966 and 1968. The one pictured is the last of the series.

In 1966, I was intrigued by the Michigan UFO reports. I wrote Mr. Ford often, and he frequently responded. Once, he took the opportunity to query the Air Force about UFOs on my behalf.

A close inspection of the Ford letter may bridge a gap that has remained in UFO research until now.

The letter, dated May 13, 1968, was composed more than two years after the Michigan incidents, and more than a year and a half after the Colorado University study began.

The middle paragraph expresses Ford's vital interest in a UFO investigation.

But it is the last paragraph that tells all. I had written Mr. Ford about the May 14, 1968 issue of *Look Magazine*, in which author John G. Fuller exposed the Colorado U "investigation" as the farce it actually was. Fuller, leaving no room for doubt, listed so much evidence of the study's absurdities and the ever-present negative attitude of the supposedly open-minded Project Director (the later Dr. Edward U. Condon), that a total waste of over a half million tax dollars was obvious.

The *Look* piece, entitled "Flying Saucer Fiasco," also included a statement by the then-Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (a civilian UFO agency), Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, ret.). Keyhoe announced that NICAP would no longer support Colorado's work because of its apparent bias against the UFO subject.

Gerald Ford was familiar with the Look article and he, like many disillusioned Americans, fully realized that the UFO investigation he worked so diligently to get was in serious trouble.

He ends his letter on a hopeful note, but the fact is that Ford probably knew the answer to UFOs would not be found at the University of Colorado.

The puzzler is, why did President Gerald Ford make no further positive statements—or any comments

at all—about UFOs after he became the Chief Executive? What happened to all the vivid discontent he displayed so selflessly in the sixties?

Why, as President, did Mr. Ford not fulfill the sort of promise that President-elect Carter boldly made?

Even more curious, indeed, is the question of whether Mr. Carter will be able to accomplish his plan to get all the government's UFO information to the public (one would assume that his use of the word "country" is equal with my use of the word government, as it relates to Carter's statement, quoted earlier in this article).

Certainly, we can speculate on the situation. UFOs are reported to be so superior to our own aircraft and weaponry that the Defense Department can only express frustration in trying to equal their maneuvers (and this is true of other countries which deal with the UFO mystery). Would any President want to tell us that UFOs are real, but that no nation on earth knows what they are, where they are from, or why they are here?

Or is such speculation just wild?

Are UFOs real? Look at the Ford letter once more. "I share your concern and am disturbed," he wrote. But what *happened* to all of that concern, and how disturbed did he remain?

Presuming that the *National Enquirer* account is accurate, President Carter has truly made an important promise to Americans and people in other lands who want to know, once and for all, the solution to the UFO mystery.

Will he fare better than the last President who proclaimed a personal interest in UFOs?

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