

1187 Agincourt Road,
Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 2H8,
Canada.

27 July, 1972.

Mr. Roy A Gallant,
The American Museum - Hayden Planetarium,
81st Street at Central Park West,
New York, N.Y. 10024, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Gallant:

Thank you for being so kind as to reply to my letter of 6 March addressed to the Editor, New Book of Knowledge.

I really don't know why you tossed in the comment about "believe" and "not believe". I am quite aware of what you refer to, and it is of course the typical attitude of scientists who always think that a layman is incapable of drawing sound conclusions from factual evidence. To scientists, laymen only "believe" or "don't believe". My letter to Mr. Leokum dealt with facts, and conclusions drawn from these facts. I would think that had you been able to refute these facts, you would have done so. The only suggestion of mysticism is in your own mind. There was none in my letter.

This matter of a consensus of opinion is very interesting, and what you say about the National Academy of Sciences panel is correct. I was, by the way, already quite familiar with the review panel. However, because that one group of scientists reached a consensus does not mean we should stop at that point. It is like statistics - if you select the right data, you can prove anything. There are other groups of scientists who have reached a consensus on the matter also, but a different consensus. Where does this leave us? You have chosen your position and I have been led to mine. As I have conducted a thorough study of the entire Condon Report myself, I prefer the consensus of those scientists who disagree with it, rather than your group which accepts it. Why are you so certain the N.A.S. panel is correct? Have you conducted a thorough study of the matter yourself or are you accepting their word on faith? I suspect it may be the latter.