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d'astrophysique

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December 6, 1978.

Mr. Arthur Bray,
1187 Agincourt Road,
Ottawa, Ontario.
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Dear Mr. Bray:

Your letter of November 26 arrived only recently. I am surprised to see the Edmonton Journal picked up this report nearly six weeks after the event. Let me give a little of the background.

This was a brief after-luncheon talk to a Rotary Club given at the request of a relative we were visiting in the area. I was on holidays at the time and the trip was entirely at personal expense. The title of the talk was "Visitors from Space" and the main theme was that although we have learned nothing of value as far as astronomy and physics are concerned from several decades of UFO investigations, we have learned a great deal recently about the universe from the study of meteorites, the real visitors from space. There was a brief explanation of condensation and evolution of meteoritic material in the solar nebula, extinct radioactivities, cosmic-ray exposure effects, the exciting new developments in isotopic anomalies and a bit about Canadian activity in meteoritics.

A very young local reporter covered the talk and spoke to me afterwards. The Edmonton clipping by CP is about half of his original version which did at least mention meteorites. The emphasis, however, is much distorted and I would agree with some of your criticisms if the newspaper account gave an accurate impression of the talk. (I gave the proper cost of the Condon Commission, not his figure, I made it clear that only some lectures had a financial motive, I distinguished between your IFO's and UFO's showing how many of the best cases of the latter type eventually became the former, etc.) The sweeping generalities are in his account, not in the original talk.

I might comment on a few of your particular points. The Michalak case is a sad one in its overall outcome but not one which contains any evidence of extraterrestrial events. (I happen to have spent several weeks in exactly this part of Manitoba during the few years before the events and find certain aspects of the story impossible to reconcile with the area near Falcon Lake.) The RCMP report would be further reason to view this whole case with caution.

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