

Edmund Hutchinson Review 1959-76

Hutchinson Bill File,

Box 107

file H.R. 866 (16)

CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M.,
APRIL 21, 1966

NEWS
RELEASE

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's, the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction.

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

May 23, 1966

Mr. William B. Weitzel, Chairman
NICAP Pittsburgh Subcommittee
5709 Woodmont Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May 17th enclosing a copy of your letter to Congressman Stanton regarding the April 17th sighting.

While I appreciate having the information on this sighting, my main concern has been that a Congressional investigation be held, all the facts examined on the unexplained sightings, and that the report be made fully available to the public.

Because of my request, certain progress has been made. I am enclosing a release on that I thought you would like to see.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

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August 10, 1966

Mrs. Primrose Glasgow
2201 Lemon Creek Road
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103

Dear Mrs. Glasgow:

Thank you for the postal card calling my attention to your comments in an attached copy of the Cassopolis Vigilant containing your column which refers to my resolution requesting an full and complete investigation into the unidentified flying objects issue.

My decision to offer this resolution in the House was prompted by an exhaustive seven weeks investigation into the March 21 UFO sighting at Hillsdale, Michigan by Mr. Van Horn, director of the Hillsdale County Civil Defense organization, in which the Air Force reportedly closed out its investigation of the sighting after three and a half hours.

My resolution was referred to the Committee on Rules, and it will be up to that Committee to decide whether further action should be taken. So far, nothing has been scheduled.

I appreciate your taking the time to write me.

Sincerely,

(hwa)

OC - Comm. IX /2 -
OC - Commendatory - District -
Hutchinson Mills - H. Res. 046 -
P - People to Lee -

5931

June 2, 1966

Mr. David Miffenegger
Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

46303

Dear Mr. Miffenegger:

Many thanks for your kind letter of May 23. Your comments were most encouraging and I am glad you found time to participate in the public opinion survey.

You express the hope that I will be seeking another term in Congress and I hasten to assure you that I am. With so much emphasis on seniority down here, it has been only recently that I have been able to "move up" to a spot where I can be somewhat effective.

Of course every Member of Congress is equally effective insofar as his single vote is concerned, my reference is to committee rank and other aspects of the legislative process.

I would be glad to talk with you whenever I am back in the district. As of the moment, no one here is too certain when Congress will adjourn, but I will be making frequent trips back during the summer and fall. Usually the newspapers are most cooperative in letting people know when I plan to be in their community.

I found the summary of your speech on "Television and Society" most interesting.

Sincerely,

(cjs)

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5902

May 26, 1966

Mr. John H. Seely
P.O. Box 328
Reading, Michigan

Dear Mr. Seely:

Thank you for your letter of May 23 regarding my proposal for a Congressional study of Air Force methods of investigating reports of unidentified flying objects.

My purpose in asking for such an investigation is purely to clear the air on something that has become extremely controversial.

My resolution has been referred to the Committee on Rules and it will be up to this committee to decide whether further action should be taken.

Thanks again for your comments.

Sincerely,

(cja)

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May 25, 1966

Mr. William E. Van Horn
Director
Hillsdale County Civil Defense
40 S. Manning Street
Hillsdale, Michigan

Dear Bud:

I introduced the enclosed House Resolution yesterday, calling for a full and complete investigation into the UFO issue, and thought you would like to have copies of the resolution - H. Res. 866.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Encl.

(ags) (copy H. Res. 866 -- (5))

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

May 19, 1966

Mr. William E. Van Horn
Director
Hillsdale County Civil Defense
40 S. Manning Street
Hillsdale, Michigan

Dear Bud:

Thought you might be interested in the enclosed
copy of a release I issued today.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Encl.

(ags)

EH
(/news release on UFO dated 5/19/66)

May 18, 1966

Mr. William E. Van Horn, Director
Hillsdale County Civil Defense
40 S. Manning Street
Hillsdale, Michigan

Dear Dad:

Thanks for sending me a copy of your investigative findings on the UFO sightings in Hillsdale last March. At that time, both Jerry Ford and Wes Vivian were reported by the papers as urging a Congressional investigation. I have not been able to discover, however, that any resolution has been actually introduced to set any investigation into motion. I have, therefore, requested the Office of the Legislative Counsel to draft an appropriate resolution for introduction by me. It will request the House Armed Services Committee to undertake the task. Presumably, the resolution upon introduction will be referred to the Armed Services Committee, so that Committee will have full jurisdiction over any House action on the matter. If the Committee wants to undertake such an investigation, it will report the resolution to the House. If it chooses not to do so, it will take no action and the matter will not reach the House floor.

Your charges against the manner in which the Government's investigation was conducted have been given publicity here in Washington.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

(MHB
dicta.)

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You will notice in the third paragraph of his letter that he states he had recommended a basic scientific study of the well-attested U.F.O. cases be made. He has in fact also stated on the dust cover of the book "The Anatomy of a Phenomenon," that he has always felt that the U.F.O. phenomenon was worthy of investigation.

In the fourth paragraph of his letter, Dr. Hynek is referring to one of our most unusual sightings, which I witnessed myself. This particular sighting I shall not release any information on at this time other than to say that it occurred on the evening of March 24, 1966 at approximately 8 p.m. The sighting was referred to Selfridge Air Force Base Radar and I was told that there were two inanimate blips on the Radar Scope.

After studying Dr. Hynek's letter and if his feelings are as stated in the letter, I have a question in my mind. Dr. Hynek being the scientific consultant to the Air Force regarding the U.F.O. situation, and having made the recommendations, where then is the block so why hasn't more intensive research been carried out? I am assuming, forming this block for you, that the thing that should be found

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Regarding Dr. Hynek's Letter

Attached is a photostatic copy of a letter written to me by Dr. J. Allen Hynek on March 29, 1966.

This letter to me is quite confusing in as much as it would give quite a different opinion of Dr. Hynek than I derived of him upon his visit to Hillsdale during the investigation. In reading this letter one would be led to believe that Dr. Hynek was very sincere in getting more to the bottom of the U.F.O. situation than he was upon his visit to Hillsdale. However, as I have previously stated it did not appear to me that Dr. Hynek was interested in any statements other than those which might fit the Marsh Gas theory.

In the second paragraph of his letter Dr. Hynek states that his findings of Marsh Gas were in essence from the letters that he had recieved from farm area people, proposing the Marsh Gas explanation. Still in his press release he admits that he has never witnessed Marsh Gas. I too have recieved letters from people in the farming areas who claim that it could not have been Marsh Gas at this time of the year. I have seen Marsh Gas and know what it is like. I was there when they were observing. To me, it is unwise for an expert to form an opinion such as this without further researching, especially when one is as unfamiliar with something as Dr. Hynek was with Marsh Gas.

100-331-66

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 67201

29 March 1966

Mr. Van Horn
Van Horn Funeral Home
Hilledale, Michigan

Dear Mr. Van Horn,

I am much interested in the new evidence that I hear you are turning up in the UFO matter. The high radioactivity, if confirmed, would surely be a significant matter.

I am enclosing a copy of my actual press release which I hope you will read carefully and let me have your comments. You will note that I have limited my discussion to the two "swamp cases". I have received many letters written prior to the release, from people in farm areas who proposed this solution independently, stating that they have been familiar with such glowing lights over swamps since childhood.

You will also note that I have recommended that a basic scientific study of well-attested UFO cases be made. I made such a recommendation as long ago as 1952! The terrific "noise" represented by the thousands of misidentifications etc., I believe prevented such recommendations from being taken seriously. If there was so much "noise" there probably wasn't any "signal". I, on the contrary, have always felt that the whole UFO phenomenon is worthy of investigation and independently said so on the dust jacket of Jacques Vallee's book, The Anatomy of a Phenomenon, which, incidently, I suggest you read.

I am anxiously awaiting your report on the sightings of the lights we talked about on the phone just before I left Ann Arbor. Was rapid motion ever definitely established? If there is any substance to the reports of lights high in the sky, then of course this is worthy of further investigation. I repeat that my interpretation applied only to the swamp areas.

I am anxious for you to read my press report since many of the things I said were taken out of context, as they most frequently are.

You are undoubtedly one of the most responsible witness observers in the entire "Michigan Affair" and I think it would be most unfortunate if you and I found ourselves in opposite camps. I'm sure that we both want to know what the actual facts are.

Sincerely,

J. Allen Hynek
J. Allen Hynek

JAH:map
Enclosure

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

to fail to report some subversive or unamerican acts or persons.

It is my belief that the U.S. Air Force could use a more tactful mode of investigation that has been used in the past, rather than that which makes those people who in all sincerity report something, to look like fools.

*William E. Van Horn, Director
Hillsdale County Civil Defense.*

that which they had witnessed, my men and myself for the past seven weeks have conducted a most sincere and open minded investigation into the U.F.O. situation in our own locality. I have attached a majority of our findings for the peoples consideration.

Previous to our original sighting on March 21st, I could have been considered a "Skeptic." However, now after seeing the investigation that was conducted here in Hillsdale, by the Air Force, & after conducting our own investigation (3 hrs. VS 7 days), I am firmly convinced that the U.F.O. does exist.

And in conclusion, I would state that if the whirlwind investigation that was conducted by the Air Force regarding the Hillsdale U.F.O., and the personnel that conducted it are representatives of our U.S. Air Force, I then feel that our people have a great deal more to be concerned about than the U.F.O. situation.

For investigation it was found that the people are often... this is... would be... States... I have...

It is... that has been... devaluation which would cause, or maybe has caused people

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findings would be before he ever reached the City of Hillsdale. I also observed that his main line of questioning was relative only to that which would fit the Marsh Gas theory. Although there was nothing to my knowledge from the information given Dr. Hynek that would fit the Marsh Gas theory, he irregardless found it fit to state that Marsh Gas is what we were observing. Dr. Hynek was not or at least didn't to me display any intent interest in the type of movement of the Vehicle that we were observing nor did he volunteer any thought or explanation of the observation the girls had made of the object descending from the sky which prompted them to call the Civil Defense Office. At no time did Dr. Hynek step a foot into the area where the Vehicle was located that the girls and myself had been observing.

It is my very considerate and sincere opinion that:

- 1) The observation that was made by the girls and myself was a U.F.O. and definitely was not Marsh Gas.
- 2) That the investigation conducted by Dr. Hynek and the Air Force was very incomplete and was merely a token appearance sort of act.
- 3) That from the many many very good sightings we have had reported to us, some from very responsible people in most cases and that they are very well founded. It is my sincere belief that the people making these reports have made a definite observation. In some of the cases we have been able to prove that it was not a U.F.O. and in many of the cases we could either make no decision or did definitely confirm them as U.F.O.'s.

With the aforementioned thoughts in mind, and having seen many of our good people laughed at and ridiculed and caused embarrassment because they reported most sincerely



HILLSDALE COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE

40 S. Manning Street

HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN 49242

page 2

I feel that this situation is very serious and that this has been demonstrated by our investigation. No, not the U.F.O.'s, but rather the trend that has developed from the entire mode of investigation that has been carried on by the Air Force regarding the situation. What I am saying, gentlemen, is the American people are afraid and hesitant to report anything because of being ridiculed. Stop and think! This could well be the common denominator by which our average citizen could fail to report even a subversive or un-American act or person. This is my honest concern. As far as the U.F.O. situation is concerned, I definitely feel that Unidentified Flying Objects are present, even though I was a skeptic previous to this incident.

Perhaps more serious thought and attention should be given to the U.F.O. investigation and that in some manner the investigation should be conducted so that the findings released would not cause ridicule and embarrassment to those that are concerned.

I therefore, as a citizen and public official, request that there be a Congressional Investigation conducted, not into the U.F.O. situation but into the ineffective, inadequate, and assinine methods and answers being issued by the Air Force in regards to their investigation and findings. It would be far better to release no information than to use the Marsh Gas Theory.

Sincerely,

William E. VanHorn
Civil Defense Director,
Hillsdale Co., Hillsdale, Mich.

Copy to:

Hon. Weston B. Vivian, 2nd Cong. Dist.
Hon. Gerald Ford, 5th Cong Dist.

lvh

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REC'D MAY 16 1966
(certified mail)

HILLSDALE COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE

40 S. Manning Street
HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN 49242

May 12, 1966

Honorable Edward Hutchinson,
4th District Congressman,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;

You are no doubt familiar with the U.F.O. incident that occurred in Hillsdale, Michigan on March 21st, 1966. This is the incident in which the Hillsdale College co-eds, their house director and I had the opportunity to witness what I refer to as an Unidentified Flying Object.

For the past seven weeks some of my staff members and I have been conducting an investigation into the U.F.O. situation and the side effects upon the people of our own locality. From the many letters I have received from people all over the United States, my observation would be that most of the people throughout the entire country have reacted the same way.

I was extremely aggravated to have the United States Air Force and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, come into our city, spend so little time in their investigation and then attempt to make us look like a group of idiots. I can honestly say that I expected this and in fact made a statement to the Hillsdale Daily News as to what their findings would be previous to the Air Force and Dr. Hynek's statement to the press was released. This was very much in line with the U.F.O. investigation and their Project Blue Book.

I have enclosed a portion of the results of our own investigation and also one of the photographs. This is the material that I want to release at this time.

I am sure that if you will study this report that you will see that we are not a group of idiots as the Air Force and Dr. Hynek has attempted to make us look. I also am very sure that there are many other people who have been laughed at, ridiculed and embarrassed because they reported what they observed and were very sincere in doing so.

It is my sincere opinion that many people have made very good observations of U.F.O.'s and have withheld the information because of the fear of being made to look like fools. I do not think that this is right and feel that this has for some reason been intentionally done to cause people to shut up and to stop bothering the Air Force.

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books they have received through a loan program.
She tells me you were responsible for the program.

Thank you! Our family got about 30 books
too much from the library 3/31/66
Sent 40)

My wife tells me your office has available
a pamphlet. "Yes! You Too Can Go To College."

Daily News 3/26/66

Local Official Questions Objectivity Of Scientist

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University astrophysicist and scientific consultant to the Air Force has said the unidentified Flying Objects reported in Hillsdale were marsh gas.

However, William Van Horn, Civil Defense director of Hillsdale County doubts Dr. Hynek's conclusions and his objectivity during the investigation in Hillsdale.

Mr. Van Horn charged Saturday morning that Dr. Hynek evaded questions, made only a cursory investigation and seemingly ignored some of the more logical aspects of witnesses' reports.

Friday morning at 11:05 Mr. Van Horn predicted what Dr. Hynek's findings would be. The Civil Defense director made the following statement to The Daily News some three hours before the scientist's news conference in Detroit:

"When the findings are completed with regard to the observation made on Monday evening, March 21 by the United States Air Force that their report will be that what we ob-

served will be one of two things:

"1—Their findings will state that what we were observing was what is commonly known as will-o-the-wisp, St. Elmo's fire or marsh gas.

"2—That it was a phenomenon caused by the reflection of some unknown light ray.

"I will go further to state that the findings in the Ann Arbor-Dexter area will be exactly the same."

After publication of Dr. Hynek's conclusions Mr. Van Horn told The Daily News:

"I feel the investigation team, in its very brief visit to the site, which was a matter of approximately 30 minutes, was so short that it made me and the others involved look rather stupid.

"I feel that many of my questions to Dr. Hynek were completely evaded by him.

"A metropolitan newspaper said this morning that Dr. Hynek said no one saw anything arrive at or leave either one of the scenes of reported sightings and that is completely erroneous.

"It was the observation of

the 17 girls at the dormitory witnessing a descending lighted object in the sky that caused them to make the first report.

"The first sighting that caused them to make the call was when they saw the object coming toward Hillsdale from the east. It appeared to be an aircraft in distress trying to make a landing at our airport.

"The girls said the object passed the windows of the dormitory heading south and disappeared from sight, just as if it had crashed, then rose again and hovered in the area of the Arboretum. This action is what prompted the girls to call me.

"Assuming that the condition was marsh gas, in my conference with Dr. Hynek Thursday, any question that I would ask with regard to this object approaching and being witnessed by the girls in the dormitory was completely evaded.

"Also, Dr. Hynek and the Air Force representative—the closest they went to the scene where this object was Monday night was the middle of Barber Drive where they took some pictures of the general area.

"It is my sincere belief Dr. Hynek had formed an opinion and decided what his report would be before he ever came here. And I say this because of the way the investigation was conducted and the type of questions he asked.

"I think the two major factors that cause me to take the position I have is that he was very evasive concerning the movements of the object and also could not give any explanation for the two different colored lights, the approximately 25 foot distance between them, and he could not explain why, when these lights rose from the ground, they did so in a uniform, level manner, rising to the same altitude at the same time as if they were connected by some mass.

"Dr. Hynek made no effort to explain this.

"Another thing he made no effort to explain was why there was no flame connecting the lights in the air with the source of the gas in the marsh.

"He hasn't proven to me that there was not something there. I'm no expert in this field and have no knowledge in this area other than what I have been able to get in the past. But the two questions make me doubt Dr. Hynek's conclusions."

5250

April 1, 1966

Mr. Charles Deal
Box 32
Pittsford, Michigan

Dear Chuck:

I second the high regard you express for our mutual friend, Bud Van Horn. The newspaper article which you enclosed with your letter indicates that the Air Force investigation was a cursory one. It suggests that the Air Force expert came into the Hillsdale community with the idea that he already knew what the cause was. Our friend Bud, who had made a careful investigation into the UFO sighting is quoted as saying the Government's conclusion made him look rather foolish. This, I think was regrettable, and I hope, entirely unintended, for there is no doubt that Bud's questions merited serious consideration.

You are perhaps informed that Congressman Jerry Ford has called for a Congressional investigation into the UFO situation in Michigan. I certainly support him in that call. So far, however, the Democratic Congressional majority has given no thought to any such investigation. If the sightings continue, it is possible like leadership might be pressed to action on the matter.

We have mailed you a copy of the pamphlet which I prepared outlining the multitude of private foundation and government programs to financially assist students in going to college. I trust you will find it interesting.

Many thanks for returning the Questionnaire so promptly. They are coming back in good volume.

Sincerely,

(ZHM:k)
dicts 3/31/66

See book #1

6/2/66

Phone call from Don Berliner of National Investigations Committee on
Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Mailed copy of H. Res. 866 and 5/19/66 press release

per ags/hb

Don Berliner

667-9434

Natl. Investigations Com.
on Aerial Phenomena

1536 Conn. Ave. —

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

radar sights. This apparently seems to be in disagreement at the present time.

Wouldn't that be a classification of what you said we don't have?

Dr. HYNK. No, sir. I said there were several cases where we had a lot of witnesses. It does not have to be a point-to-point situation. When an airliner leaves New York for San Francisco, it is seen over Ohio, Nebraska, and so forth. These sightings were confined to a relatively narrow area. I want to know what happened to these objects. Why weren't they seen over Fort Wayne, Ind.?

Mr. SCHWEIKER. The fact one officer reports he went to the scene after someone else sighted it, and returned back to the same point, there it was, according to the police officer's testimony.

Dr. HYNK. Yes, sir, but it was in the same area. We don't know what it was. I would like to know what it was.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. One of the other witnesses in this story—and all I have to go on is what the reporter's writing says, they did, in fact see it go from point to point, while they were watching it.

Dr. HYNK. Within a relatively narrow area. But I don't recollect whether they saw it leave for distant points. One of the things that seems to be so odd about this particular case is that we did not find horizontal trajectories over any length, as you would expect from a craft.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Is the Beaver County sighting unexplained or is that explainable, this photograph I referred to?

Major QUINTANILLA. Is this Mr. Lucci's photo?

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Yes, sir.

Major QUINTANILLA. We have asked Mr. Lucci to submit the negative for photo analysis, but he has refused to do so.

Dr. HYNK. It needs a double exposure, as we can judge from the print.

Major QUINTANILLA. We asked the gentleman to submit the negative for analysis and he refuses to do so.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. On what basis?

Major QUINTANILLA. I don't know, sir. We requested the negative.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. He submitted it to the Beaver Times. They published it. Maybe these people are a little skeptical about turning over negatives without some assurance.

I think we ought to look into that a little bit, because the newspaper claims they saw the negatives, examined by their photographic experts, and they are authentic.

Major QUINTANILLA. I have a copy of our letter in my files asking Mr. Lucci to submit the negative for analysis, and he declined to do so. That is all I can say.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Schweiker.

We will go to Mr. Leggett.

Mr. LEGGETT. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilson and I want to go on record at this time that we do not believe; we are intelligent people.

Mr. BATES. Which Wilson?

The CHAIRMAN. We are going to adjourn, and we are going to meet again at 2:30. If there is no reason to hold Dr. Hynk and Major Quintanilla, we will let them be excused. Some people say whenever you all have gone we are going to get down here in executive session.

and you, Dr. Brown, are going to tell us—here is what I meant to tell you—and this is far from the truth.

I know of nothing else to ask him. I think we have explored everything.

Mr. Stratton, have you had any afterthoughts?

Mr. STRATTON. Just one question.

Was there not a sighting, back it seems to me in 1947, when an object was observed on radar, either at National Airport or Bolling, both coming in and going out? It seems to me there was also a visual sighting that went along with that.

Do you—Major Quintanilla, I don't know how long you have been following this, but is this in your records at all?

Major QUINTANILLA. I am sure that if the sighting was reported to the Air Force it is on record, but I am not aware of this particular one, sir.

Mr. STRATTON. It seems to me both the radar and the reported visual sighting were relatively in agreement. I just wondered if you were familiar with it?

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Stratton.

Are there any other questions from any other member of the committee?

Mr. ICHORD. We will be back here at 2:30?

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will reconvene at 2:30 for the purpose of taking up 412.

Dr. Brown, we have no more requirement for the major and Dr. Hynk, and the resumption of the hearing this afternoon will be in executive session.

It will have to do with 412. We will take up where we left off.

Dr. Brown, if you and General McConnell will be back at 2:30, we will meet. We don't plan to have a meeting Thursday, because I think a lot of members will have gone, if we finish on Wednesday. But we do want to meet this afternoon, and tomorrow, and maybe tomorrow afternoon.

Then I think we may be able to finish with Dr. Brown before the recess.

At 2:30, Dr. Brown. And I want to thank you, Dr. Brown, for producing this information.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m. the committee was adjourned to reconvene at 2:30 p.m. of the same day.)

○

Mr. ICHORD. I would like to ask, along the line Mr. Stratton was inquiring, how close was the Life magazine article to April Fool's Day?

Mr. Chairman, one of the members of the committee staff has handed me a question that I think should be in the record.

Doctor, are you familiar with the NICAP, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon?

Dr. HYNEK. I would think anyone who has been looking into UFO's for the past many years as I have couldn't help be acquainted with their work.

Mr. ICHORD. What is the makeup of this committee?

Dr. HYNEK. It is called a committee, but it is a rather large group of civilians over the country, as I understand it, who volunteer to investigate the cases.

Mr. ICHORD. It has no official standing, then?

Dr. HYNEK. No official governmental standing; no, sir.

Mr. ICHORD. This committee does not always agree with your explanation of the various sightings?

Dr. HYNEK. I believe that is correct.

Mr. ICHORD. How many, Doctor, of the 10,000-plus cases, have there been photographs allegedly taken of UFO's?

Dr. HYNEK. In a very few cases. This is another thing which bothers me.

Mr. ICHORD. Can you give an idea of how many?

Dr. HYNEK. How many?

Major, would you venture a guess?

Major QUINTANILLA. I don't know.

Dr. HYNEK. I would say only about 1 percent, or less, of the cases reported have included photographs.

Mr. ICHORD. Then I take it you can't tell me how many of these photograph cases have not been explained by you, since you can't tell me how many photographs have been taken?

Dr. HYNEK. This is right. But the point is that you cannot make a scientific analysis of a photograph unless you have the negative.

As the major has pointed out, time and again when we request the negatives, they are not forthcoming.

Sometimes other groups get them.

Mr. ICHORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Mr. Clancy.

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Chairman, just one short question for the doctor.

Have any of the 5 percent of the unexplained cases been observed on radar screens?

Secretary BROWN. I don't know the answer to that one.

Major QUINTANILLA. No, sir.

Mr. CLANCY. What percentage of the reported incidents have been reported on radar screens?

Major QUINTANILLA. About 1.5 percent, sir.

Mr. CLANCY. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schweiker, we are finishing up now.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

First I would like to request the Beaver County photograph be included in the Air Force investigation, the one that appeared in Look magazine, and was verified by the Beaver County Times. I hope that will be included.

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The CHAIRMAN. We will get an Air Force report on that, too.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Do I understand that you said none of the unexplained objects have been sighted on radar?

Major QUINTANILLA. No, sir; I said 1.5 percent.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. No, the first question he asked you was, have any of the unexplained objects been sighted on radar. I thought you said "No" to that just a couple of minutes ago.

Major QUINTANILLA. That is correct. We have no radar cases which are unexplained.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. All right.

Let's go back to the story Mr. Bates was talking about, Exeter, N.H., the one Mr. Fuller has written about in several magazines.

I understand this is an unexplained sighting on your part, is that correct?

Major QUINTANILLA. That is correct, sir.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. He specifically says in his story—and I quote his words now—

Confidential comments made to me by the Coast Guardsmen and military in the area support the laymen's testimony and confirm the reports of radar sightings and scrambling by jet fighters from Pease Air Force Base.

Major QUINTANILLA. No, sir; that is not correct. We have no radar information on that sighting. No jet fighters were scrambled.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Let me ask you this: In the Pease Air Force Base, you had an investigation by Major Griffin, and a Lieutenant Brant, is that correct?

Major QUINTANILLA. Sir?

Mr. SCHWEIKER. In the situation at Exeter, N.H., did you have a report filed to you folks by Major Griffin and Lieutenant Brant?

Major QUINTANILLA. Yes, sir; we did.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Could we have copies of their raw report?

Major QUINTANILLA. Yes, sir; you may.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. What were their conclusions?

Major QUINTANILLA. They couldn't explain it.

Secretary BROWN. They sent them over to us.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. They made no mention of planes scrambling from Pease Air Force Base?

Major QUINTANILLA. There were aircraft in the area on regularly scheduled missions, but they were not scrambled for the purpose of observing the reported UFO's.

Secretary BROWN. Two of my staff have pointed out to me, Mr. Schweiker, that Pease AFB has no fighters; it is a SAC bomber base, and is not a fighter base.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions, Mr. Schweiker?

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Yes, sir.

I would like to ask the doctor:

You said to have some bona fide sightings we need a lot of people and a point-to-point situation and some other things. Doesn't the Exeter, N.H. sighting, at least as reported—I want to point out that in this sighting there were several policemen, including the chief of police and several news people who all reported the same phenomena, 60 people. Doesn't that meet your criteria; a lot of people saw it, it was a point-to-point situation, at least this observer says there were

pose on the Secretary the requirement to track down Life magazine and say give me your negatives, give me your reasons. Is this what you want?

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding we were asking this question because many people had been somewhat concerned by these reports in recent days, including the distinguished minority leader in the House.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. STRATTON. And it does seem to me when a national magazine that has as much influence as Life has, prints some photographic—what purports to be photographic—pieces of evidence of these objects, we ought to if we are going to allay the concern of these people who have started this investigation by our committee in the first place, that we ought to have an answer to it.

The CHAIRMAN. I think so, too, but I don't think we should criticize the Secretary for not having done it.

Mr. Secretary, here is what I am going to request you do. You get in touch with Life magazine and request them to furnish you with this information that Mr. Stratton has brought to your attention, or any other magazine, and report back to this committee.

Secretary BROWN. We will be glad to do so.

The CHAIRMAN. I am sure Life magazine would be eager to do this. Mr. Stratton, I think you are wise in suggesting it, but what I didn't want to do is to unwittingly criticize the Secretary for not having done it.

Now, Mr. Secretary, will you do it?

Secretary BROWN. We will do it, Mr. Chairman, and we will I think continue to follow our ground rules—

The CHAIRMAN. You get those negatives if you can and turn them over to the doctor, and I want a report on it.

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Chairman, I have one more question. May I say I wouldn't dream of criticizing the Secretary, he and I are good friends, and he knows I am only trying to be helpful.

The CHAIRMAN. Of course, and I know he cherishes your friendship, and so do I.

Mr. STRATTON. The other item that has really led to all this concern today are these sightings in Michigan. The Secretary has given us a report, but I have only had a chance to skim over it. The doctor here a moment ago commented with respect to these people in Wisconsin that only two or three people in the area had seen the phenomenon, and wasn't it surprising that a lot of people who must have been around didn't see it.

If I understand the newspaper accounts correctly, the thing that is unique about the Michigan sightings is that a lot of people in the area saw it, and the girls in the dormitory apparently sat around for hours watching it, and people came and went, and all saw whatever it was.

Now, I wonder if you could give us in a nutshell what the explanation of this is? Marsh gas is what I understand is the explanation.

Could you tell us, doctor, in a few words the gist of what you discovered out there that you have reported here?

Dr. HYNK. I will be happy to. I conducted a detailed inquiry into the two reported sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, Mich. Of the 50 to 60 people who reported having seen one or the other of these I talked with about 32 persons.

The CHAIRMAN. How many, doctor?

Dr. HYNK. With about 32 people. I talked with some of these briefly, but spoke with at least 15 persons in considerable detail.

These two sightings, although separated by some 65 miles, were a localized phenomenon. They were in the swamp area. No individual that I talked to, and no group of persons, could agree that they have seen anything either enter or leave the swamp. There were several isolated reports by people who said that yes, they saw a bright light come, but they could not get any general support or concurrence on this, from the others. Witnesses did agree that they saw a glow, and red, yellow, and green lights in the swamp area in both cases. So I said to myself, "What is common in swamps?" And I researched this question with the aid of several professors at the University of Michigan. They have been very helpful to me in this, since an astronomer doesn't know about swamps; he usually has his eyes a little higher than that. They informed me, and I later found in several books, that marsh gas, resulting from the spontaneous igniting in air of such gases as CH_4 , methane, H_2S , PH_3 , phosphine, and particularly important, P_2H_4 , an impurity in phosphine, is a common occurrence and produces what appears to be glowing lights of different colors. Since then I have had several letters from people saying "What are they getting all excited about in Michigan, I have seen these things since I have been a kid on the farm." As these gases are ignited, they can produce red, yellow, and green glows. There is nothing mysterious about these colors.

The lighting goes out here, and goes on here, thus giving the impression of motion. The light was moving smoothly, they said, not following the train which was bumpy, and they also rose some distance and came down. They were reportedly observed for a period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours.

In a book, "Light and Color in the Open Air," it is pointed out that swamp lights, commonly known as will-o'-the-wisp, fox light, and so forth, can be observed for several hours, sometimes all night.

And the conditions were just right for it in Michigan. In both cases, the winds were reasonably calm. Had there been high winds, it is unlikely these glows would have taken place.

Furthermore, Michigan had experienced an unusually mild winter. They tell me there wasn't much snow. However, the swamp had been covered by ice.

Now, in a swamp rotting vegetation produces these marsh gases. When a thaw comes, it seems entirely logical to me, that these gases would bubble up, and be spontaneously ignited, and you would see these things. To me it is a logical explanation. I said in my press release I couldn't prove it in a court of law but it seems to me to be a very logical explanation.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Mr. Ichord.

Then I will come over to the other side.

Mr. ICHORD. Let me first differentiate, Mr. Chairman, my position from the chairman, and Mrs. Rivers, and also Mr. Nedzi.

I am neither a believer nor a disbeliever. I am from Missouri, and I have got to be shown.

The CHAIRMAN. You go right ahead.

Mr. PRICE. If they did travel in outer space there would be a record somewhere of their travels in outer space? Declassified
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Dr. HYNEK. I would certainly think so, and this, of course, is I think one of the most potent arguments against extraterrestrial visitation by intelligences, unless they were so superintelligent they knew how to evade completely our surveillances. I think this would be pretty difficult.

Mr. PRICE. As they left their normal orbit they could be tracked and followed?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir.

Mr. PRICE. As they left the orbit?

Dr. HYNEK. To the best of my understanding, they certainly could be.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Hall.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to thank the Secretary and his distinguished guests for this, and say for some time we have even had space conventions down in the Ozarks, in the last 13 years, and it would seem obvious to me in view of the report today those who take trips by the use of hallucinatory drugs are almost synonymous with the number of space sightings we have had reported here today, namely, in the order of 10,000. To me it indicates a decrease in the mores and the fiber of those who would subject themselves to hallucinatory influences in the first place.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Stratton?

Mr. STRATTON. You mentioned something from Life magazine, Mr. CHAIRMAN. There were two pictures in Life magazine I think we would like an explanation of. One of them was a red object which was clearly visible in the photograph. The other were two lights, I think, taken in Sidney Harbor, one at one position and one at another, and then there was the third photograph. I wonder if the Doctor could give us what the explanation is of these?

Dr. HYNEK. Well, sir, unless one has the original negative, there is very little photoanalysis that can be done. It is said a picture is worth a thousand words, but I think in this case it is the other way around, because generally it has been our experience, and I think Major Quintanilla will bear me out, that when we do have hoaxes they very frequently are accompanied by photographs.

Mr. STRATTON. I appreciate it is possible to doctor up negatives.

Let me put it the other way around. Have these three incidents which are reported photographically in Life magazine been examined by you, and, if so, what are your findings with regard to them?

Dr. HYNEK. No, sir; they have not been examined by me, because I do not have the original negatives.

Mr. STRATTON. Are these incidents listed in the list that you have compiled, and which the Secretary has told us 95 percent are explainable?

Dr. HYNEK. No, sir. These particular pictures are not in my list since I don't know enough about them.

Mr. STRATTON. Doctor, I would suggest since these have had very prominent circulation, in a magazine of some prominence in the country, that we ought to examine these particular things and determine whether they are hoaxes or not. If anything is disturbing the Ameri-

can people, I would assume a picture of this kind would be disturbing just the same way that Life's story of what happened to some dogs up in Baltimore has now resulted in legislation being recommended to the House.

You have no explanation or haven't looked into the series of photographs that appear on pages 26 and 27 of Life magazine, and pages 24 and 25?

Dr. HYNEK. I just learned of the Life article last week.

Mr. STRATTON. Is that correct, Doctor?

Dr. HYNEK. That is correct, I have not examined the photographs and information published by Life.

Mr. STRATTON. Has anybody examined them in the Air Force?

Major QUINTANILLA. Mr. Stratton, we have asked for the negatives of those pictures, but the citizens will not turn the negatives over to the Air Force. You cannot force them to turn them over to the Air Force.

Mr. STRATTON. They turned them over to Life magazine, haven't they?

Major QUINTANILLA. You will have to ask them; I don't know.

Mr. STRATTON. What has Life got?

Major QUINTANILLA. I don't know, sir.

Mr. STRATTON. How can you have examined this without finding out what Life has?

Major QUINTANILLA. What is that, sir?

Mr. STRATTON. How can you have examined these particular instances without finding out what Life has?

Major QUINTANILLA. The Air Force has not investigated these instances, sir, and the photographs have not been examined because the negatives have never been turned over to the Air Force.

Mr. STRATTON. You have not been in touch with Life magazine to find out what they have?

Major QUINTANILLA. No, sir; we have not.

Mr. STRATTON. Don't you think it might be well to undertake to make an effort to find out whether Life has the negatives, for example, or whether they have been in touch with the individuals concerned?

Major QUINTANILLA. Yes, sir.

Mr. STRATTON. Well, I think, Mr. Secretary, as I just said, I am very much impressed with the doctor's statement, and with yours, but this kind of thing in Life magazine makes it appear that there is something there, and you say that you have examined these things, and there is nothing there, and I think that you ought to have examined this so that we can have an explanation of these particular phenomena.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me say something.

We cannot ask the Secretary to look into every magazine that is published, or every periodical that comes out of everybody's printing press. Now, it seems to me like Life magazine is not exempted or excluded, if they are as interested as they appear to be in this magazine, that comes to my office free, and which I seldom look into—that is my responsibility, I have other things to do—it looks to me like these people who give such great dissemination to these things would be interested in seeing what the DOD has, without imposing on the Secretary of Defense the responsibility of tracking down everything that comes out of everybody's camera. I do not know why we should im-

Of the sightings so far checked out, less than 2 percent of the total are listed on Project Blue Book's file as unidentified. The Air Force officially concludes that none of these has given any indication of posing a threat to national safety, or offering new technological data, or of originating from some extraterrestrial source. However, some of these files remain officially open and the investigations on them continue.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, who is heading up the Ann Arbor investigation for the Air Force, is an old hand at checking on flying saucers for Blue Book. Dr. Hynek notes that sighting reports usually do not originate with persons who believe in outerspace visitations. "Believers" don't need sightings to convince them, and are irritated by the embarrassment and skepticism with which most UFO spotters, like Frank Mannor, report what they believe they have seen.

"It is easy to dismiss the cases of birds, balloons, and the like," says Dr. Hynek, "but when good solid citizens report something puzzling, I believe we have an obligation to do as good a job as we can. I regard our 'Unidentifieds' as a sort of blot on the escutcheon. Somehow we scientists should be able to come up with answers for these things."

Major Quintanella, although certain that no evidence turned up to date has even hinted at spacecraft of unearthly origin, agrees that it is impossible to prove that flying saucers do not exist. In any event, the Air Force is not about to give up chasing UFO's.

"We are spending millions to develop our own rocket boosters to get our spacecraft to the moon and beyond," says the major, smiling. "Imagine what a great help it would be to get our hands on a ship from another planet and examine its powerplant."

The CHAIRMAN. What I want to ask you is, why do they always see them in the nighttime?

Dr. HYNK. There are a number of reports from the daytime although it is true there are many more night sightings.

The CHAIRMAN. Then there is another thing, if anybody wanted to spy on this country why would they go to this expense, when you can go to any newsstand and get all the information you want, and if that doesn't help you get a roadmap, and if that doesn't help you, hire a Hertz car.

Dr. HYNK. Maybe they don't know this.

The CHAIRMAN. If the Martians don't know this by this time they will never know it.

Spying on this country is so simple, I cannot understand why the Russians or anybody wants to put something up in the air to spy on this country, when they have got so many avenues we don't police.

Dr. HYNK. No comment on that, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, you ought to comment on it.

Dr. Chamberlain, we will hear from you.

Dr. CHAMBERLAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really have no questions, but I will say the sightings in Michigan were near my area, but not within it. I am pleased to hear your recommendation and to have the Secretary's statement that he intends to implement it.

I am further comforted to know he is giving it further thought and he is going to, at such time as your recommendation is implemented, we are going to have a panel that will consider these things in depth, not just in town for a day, with a cursory look, and disposing of it, because I feel we have other scientific achievements and advances, and that there is going to be a growing importance of surveillance of this phenomena.

I would say, further, the people in our area are concerned about this. There has been considerable responsible editorial comment in our newspapers. It should not be "poo-pooed," as you say.

I am pleased to have your statement.

And, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having this hearing, and these people in to put some attention on this matter. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Governor Stafford. Governor Stafford, you are from Vermont, how close is this to your district?

Mr. STAFFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to comment on that.

Mr. Bates has pointed out there have been UFO sightings in New Hampshire, Vermont not to be outdone last week has had sightings there, also, some within 16 miles of my hometown.

The CHAIRMAN. That is getting awfully close.

Mr. STAFFORD. Yes, sir.

Since our States of Vermont and New Hampshire are known as the twin States, Mr. Chairman, this may be simply a case of bad navigation on the part of the UFO's, although some of us think it may be if they are extraterrestrial they are simply looking for a warmer climate than New Hampshire possesses. But in any event, in seriousness, the people in Vermont are very much concerned over the sightings that have occurred in our State, and reputable people have seen phenomena which they cannot understand.

I would simply hope that the Secretary of the Air Force and the doctor could assure me that if these sightings have not already been evaluated, that in the course of investigation and deliberations they will be.

The CHAIRMAN. I hope if you come in contact with any of them you don't have to tell them where South Carolina is.

Mr. Hébert is next.

Mr. HÉBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

While these objects have not been seen in my district, I just want to prepare myself, because after next election day I might have seen some of them.

Doctor, have you conferred with Mr. Ray Walston on this subject matter?

Dr. HYNK. No, sir.

Mr. HÉBERT. Does that ring a bell with you, Mr. Ray Walston?

Dr. HYNK. No, sir.

Mr. HÉBERT. It does not ring a bell? He is the most authoritative man in the country on space. He appears in every home every Sunday night, he is "My Favorite Martian."

Dr. HYNK. Oh. [Laughter.]

Mr. HÉBERT. He has an antenna out of his head, too.

Dr. HYNK. I think I have been talking to the wrong people.

Mr. HÉBERT. He can shed a lot of light on the subject. I just wanted to direct your attention to that.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Hall, you are next after Mr. Price.

Mr. PRICE. Doctor, if in fact they exist and are from outer space, don't we have a tracking system that now does a real competent job tracking every satellite in outer space so we know every one that is launched somewhere else, and as they circle in outer space we have a record of each of these, do we not?

Dr. HYNK. It is my understanding that we do. This is the point I made earlier.

The Air Force totals 10,147 UFO reports and states that 646 of them remain unexplained by provable natural phenomena.

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.

Maybe there is no intelligent life on other planets. Many scientists think other planets could not sustain such life. But we don't really know.

One fact about the UFO's gives me pause. There have been no really solid reports of creatures being seen getting off landed saucers. To venture from one planet to another involves great intellectual curiosity and I would think it almost impossible for someone from outer space, once here, to stifle that curiosity to the extent of not trying to make personal contact with Earth people.

Conceivably, we have been seeing only preliminary unmanned orbitings of the Earth precisely controlled at great distances. But we don't know.

We need to get all the data drawn together in 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.

[From the Washington Evening Star, Mar. 25, 1966]

DEPUTY SHERIFF "SHOOT" A UFO OVER MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICH.—A Michigan deputy sheriff said an unidentified flying object sighted over southern Michigan last week was trapped—on film—and still another UFO was reported yesterday.

Deputy Sheriff David Fitzpatrick of Washtenaw (Ann Arbor) County took the photographs with a tiny camera roughly the size of a man's two forefingers held together.

Prints were delayed because the tiny film had to be sent to Forest Hills, N.Y., for development.

The new sighting of an unidentified flying object near Holland, Mich., came from both Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nichols, who live across Michigan's southern Lower Peninsula near Saugatuck. They said it flew across a highway ahead of them, no more than 150 to 200 feet high.

Nichols, 24, said the object appeared about half the size of an automobile and was "a round circle glowing red on the inside and white on the outside."

Nichols' description fits roughly that given by several of more than a score who have reported sightings in the Ann Arbor area in the last 10 days.

Fitzpatrick, however, said the two objects he photographed gave off a brilliant yellow-white light in graceful swoops which he and Sheriff's Sgt. N. K. Schneider observed from about 4 a.m. to 7 a.m., March 16.

The photographs show two distinct streaks of light in the sky high above street lights leading into Milan. No details of the objects are visible in the photographs blow up to 8 by 10 inches from the tiny film.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist, was sent here by the Air Force to investigate recent reports.

He has scheduled a news conference in Detroit today to discuss his probe. Meanwhile, reports of unidentified flying objects moved south into Ohio today.

A farmer who lives near Upper Sandusky in northwestern Ohio told sheriff's deputies that an object shaped "like a top" or a "Christmas tree upside down" hovered over a wooded area on his property early today.

Deputies were called to the farm three times, but the farmer said the object, with lights on its outer edges, disappeared each time before they arrived.

[From the Detroit News, Mar. 23, 1966]

PHOTO ADDS NEW WRINKLE TO SAUCERS

(By Douglas Bradford)

While Air Force officials prowled through the countryside for some sign of the strange night visitors that have been zipping through southeastern Michigan skies, a Monroe area boy came up with what he said was a picture of one.

Paul Richwine, 16, who lives in Woodland Beach, 3 miles north of Monroe, produced a piece of film with a blob on it that he says his camera "saw" when he pointed it at a "flying saucer" over his home Friday night.

Detroit News photographers say the blob could be due to a wrinkle in the film. But Paul and his mother, Mrs. Mariannice Richwine, insist that they saw the strange glowing objects hovering in the sky and that the dark area on the picture represents one of them.

The object in the picture doesn't seem to have much material substance. Neither Paul nor his mother can account for the fact that the thing they saw was bright and shiny with flashing colored lights while the camera recorded a dark smear.

Paul said his Argus F-100 was on time exposure at f. 2.8 and was loaded with fast film when he took the picture at about 11:30 p.m., Friday.

The News photographers conceded that the darkness in the picture "might" be the indication of something moving quite swiftly on a time exposure, or the blob could be a water spot on the negative or a wrinkle in the film.

Mrs. Richwine said the object's appearance was preceded by four glowing shapes about 10:30 p.m., Friday. She saw them from her front window, she said.

[From the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Mar. 22, 1966]

STATE FLYING OBJECT REPORTS BRING PLEA FOR FEDERAL SIFT

ANN ARBOR.—A Michigan Congressman planned Tuesday to ask the Defense Department to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects sighted near Ann Arbor.

U.S. Representative Weston Vivian, Democrat, of Michigan, left for Washington, D.C., Monday after conferring with Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey, of Washtenaw County. Harvey said Vivian also planned to talk with the U.S. Air Force.

Three times within a week, residents of the nearby community of Dexter have reported sighting objects flying in the night sky.

"I didn't believe those reports," said Harvey. "But with so many trained police personnel and reliable citizens having seen them, I must believe something is in the Washtenaw County skies."

And Tuesday, the Hillsdale County civil defense director and 87 college coeds said they watched an eerie, hovering flying object settle in a swampy hollow near a school dormitory Monday night.

William VanHorn, 41, the county civil defense director for 10 years, said he watched the unidentified object through binoculars for 3 hours.

The Air Force announced it was calling in Dr. H. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's UFO study program, to investigate the rash of sightings.

Hynek will work from Selfridge Air Force Base near Mount Clemens, the Air Force said.

In Hillsdale, VanHorn said he joined the 87 Hillsdale College coeds and their housemother to watch the object. He said it emitted wavering orange, red . . .

[From the New York Times, Mar. 22, 1966]

FORTY IN MICHIGAN SAY A MYSTERIOUS CRAFT HOVERED IN SWAMP

ANN ARBOR, MICH., March 21.—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.

Descriptions of the unidentified flying objects tallied closely. A patrolman, Robert Hunawill, said he and other residents of the area saw similar craft before dawn last Monday and Wednesday.

In Washington, the Air Force said it knew nothing of the reports. The Air Force's Michigan headquarters in Battle Creek would not comment.

Two persons who slogged through the 300-acre swamp today and looked for traces of the craft found nothing but marsh grass, quicksand, and muck.

number of unexplained cases where the data is not sufficiently precise to be helpful in an analysis.

Mr. NEDZI. My final question, Doctor, would be whether—and I think you touched upon this—whether there has been ever any evidence in any of these unexplained sightings that would indicate that there is some kind of extraterrestrial intelligence involved?

Dr. HANEK. I believe I have covered that. I have not seen any evidence to confirm this, nor have I know any competent scientist who has, or who believes that any kind of extraterrestrial intelligence is involved. However, the possibility should be kept open as a possible hypothesis. I don't think we should ever close our minds to it. But certainly there is no real evidence of intelligent behavior of hardware. If we had received periodic visits by controlled space vehicles since 1947, or earlier, it is likely they would have had some kind of trouble at some time and dropped something off the coast of Spain or some place, and we have not come across any positive proof like that.

Mr. NEDZI. Mr. Chairman, until the sightings get a little closer to my district, I have no further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. I recognize Mr. Chamberlain, then I go to Governor Stafford and Mr. Hébert, because I want to get as close to the districts as I can.

I want to put in the record Mr. Ford's letter, and the response by Secretary Brown.

What else, Mr. Blandford, ought to go in the record?

Mr. BLANDFORD. That is all that ought to be in at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, we will put all of these in the record. I want to shed as much light on these illuminated objects as we can.

(The material above referred to is as follows:)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., March 28, 1966.

Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN 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."

Declassified

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together in 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, Tenn., who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oreg., reads, "9 out of 10 people want truth of UFO's. Press your investigation to the fullest."

Ronald Collier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from MIT," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the Air Force 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, Mich., dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by 4 sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrall 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 Co. 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,

GERALD R. FORD, Member of Congress.

Enclosures.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 27, 1966]

DON'T SNEER AT UFO'S

(By Roscoe Drummond)

You can't dismiss the possibility that some of the unidentified flying objects, which so many people have sighted in so many places, are real.

There are, of course, UFO buffs who seem to want to believe everything and discount logical explanations. But Air Force officials assigned to check up on these sightings seem so bored and skeptical that many people have the impression that they think the public would panic if all the facts were brought out into the open.

Let's not leave the search for more knowledge to those who tend to accept everything uncritically or to those who tend to dismiss every UFO as ridiculous.

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.

Last week, more than 100 persons (some of them trained observers) reported seeing "flying saucers" in seven States, from Maine to Texas to Colorado.

Last year, project Blue Book, the small Air Force unit created to keep tabs on these things, received 886 reports of UFO sightings.

During the last 2 years, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a private group headed by a retired Naval Academy Marine Corps pilot, received 3,000 such reports.

During the past 10 years, the NICAP received some 8,000 reports and says that 1,500 of them "seem pretty substantial and unexplained."

not overly populated but certainly not completely sparse. Why would they be the only four people to see this? This is a problem faced with on many reported sightings. Therefore, I find it most difficult to ascribe a physical tangibility that there was an actual craft here. I would rather seek some other scientific explanation.

Mr. BATES. With respect to your response on that particular case. In the New Hampshire situation, two women apparently saw this object which they said was the size of a house. They reported it at the police station. And then the officer came out. He saw it when he got there. So there is someone who did see it in addition to the people who reported it originally.

Dr. HYNEK. Yes.

Mr. BATES. You have no decision with respect to the New Hampshire case?

Dr. HYNEK. I would not offer or venture any conclusion to something I had not personally investigated.

Mr. BATES. This particular case has been referred to a study group, the New Hampshire case, or has it not, or is it a dead issue?

Dr. HYNEK. No case in the Air Force files that is unidentified is a dead issue.

Mr. BATES. Is it just in limbo now, or is somebody still looking into it?

Dr. HYNEK. I would say at the moment, considering the recent reported sightings in Michigan, that it is in limbo.

Mr. BATES. Do you expect to investigate this further? Would this be one that you would prefer to the panel?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir. I think this is one they should take a look at.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think they should be examined further?

Dr. HYNEK. I am sorry, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think this panel, about whom the Secretary has spoken, should go into this further and make a report?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir; I do.

The CHAIRMAN. There are five such cases, or four, of some unexplained phenomena; is this a fact?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir; there are at least that many.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, do you plan to have this board look into these?

Secretary BROWN. We will continue our investigations of all of these, Mr. Chairman.

I have this recommendation to establish a civilian panel from the Scientific Advisory Board, and I believe I may act favorably on it, but I want to explore further the nature of such a panel, and the ground rules, before I go ahead with it. I don't want to have a group of people come in for just 1 day and make a shallow investigation. They have to be prepared to look into a situation thoroughly if they are to do any good.

The CHAIRMAN. If you cannot explain these things, and you are our source of beginnings, how on earth could a subcommittee of this committee explain them?

Dr. HYNEK. Are you looking to me for an answer?

The CHAIRMAN. If I conducted a hearing on this it would go on and on, and on, if I let it, I would imagine.

Dr. HYNEK. Well, sir, scientists have a somewhat different way of working. They gather data quietly without fanfare, without the press looking over their shoulder. They may work for several years.

The CHAIRMAN. What would you suggest that I do, Doctor, as chairman of this committee?

Dr. HYNEK. You are in a totally different category, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Since this thing began in Michigan, we have two members of the Michigan delegation, and I am going to start off with Mr. Nedzi and ask him if he has any questions.

Mr. NEDZI. Mr. Chairman, you are very kind. I don't have any questions directly pertaining to Michigan, although I have recently been advised my district is about 150 miles from the sightings. The sightings are moving eastward toward my district. [Laughter.]

One question, Doctor, as to these statistics. Are they statistics only from the United States, the investigations made by you and the Air Force?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir. The Air Force would have no jurisdiction over cases in other countries. But there are, I understand, reports from other countries, also.

Mr. NEDZI. Is any effort made to coordinate information with some of the sightings that are made abroad?

Dr. HYNEK. No, sir. Up to now we have made no concerted effort to do this.

Mr. NEDZI. Do you think it might be a good idea to do it?

Dr. HYNEK. Well, I think we should attend to the situation here in the United States first. Then, if our efforts are successful and if we strike scientific paydirt and find something of value, then perhaps the other step you suggest would be advisable.

Mr. NEDZI. Do you know whether any studies are going on overseas, with respect to UFO's?

Dr. HYNEK. I know of no formal studies. Actually, the rest of the world seems to be guided by, and shows a tremendous respect for, the U.S. Air Force, and they feel, I understand, that the Air Force has done a fine job.

Mr. NEDZI. Perhaps the question should be directed to the Air Force, but it seemed to me there should be some kind of exchange of ideas among the scientists who might be interested in it in other countries where these sightings have taken place. It might contribute toward an exposé of the problem.

Let me clarify for the record, I do not believe in flying saucers, but I think it is important to have some kind of evidence that can be presented to the people so that they don't let the thing get more out of hand than I think it already is.

Secretary BROWN. That is what we have been trying to do, Mr. Nedzi. I do not think we have any ideas of a scientific nature to exchange with anyone else yet, nor do they have such information to exchange with us, and the difficulty in going to an international program is that it won't broaden our knowledge of basic data very much. On the other hand, it may degrade the quality of the data, because we have a hard enough time getting details in this country. A few well-authenticated but unexplained cases are worth much more than a

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The UFO sighted by Norman Muscarello was identical to the UFO sighted later by Muscarello Bertrand, and Hunt. Norman observed the UFO at close range during his initial sighting. There is no question in my mind that the same or similar object was involved in both of these particular sightings. The number of pulsating lights, the yawing motion, the same location, etc., make this so very apparent. Since I did not interview the "unnamed women" I am not certain of the details of their sighting but according to Officer Bertrand, the object they described was very similar to the UFO they sighted later. I might add that another witness, a male motorist, also sighted a similar object. He tried to phone the police from a pay station at nearby Hampton, N.H., but was cut off. Later he reported the incident to U.S. Air Force authorities at Pease AFB. The chances are astronomical that six people, entirely independent of each other, should report the identical description of a UFO within the span of several hours in the same general area. I am aware of the many UFO sightings in New Hampshire especially in September. It may be more than coincidence that many of these sightings were near powerlines.

Although I do not agree completely with the way Washington is handling the UFO problem I am sympathetic with the official attitude. I have enough faith in the Government to realize that although official releases on UFO's would indicate that UFO's present no problem regarding national security and that the U.S. Air Force treats the subject lightly, the converse is true, that is, that a full-scale military and scientific research program is being carried out on UFO's because they are a threat to our national security. It is because of this belief that I will continue to send the better UFO reports our subcommittee investigates to Project Bluebook and will continue to urge the public to report all UFO sightings to the nearest Air Force base at my lectures, personal contacts, etc. I might add that I encourage reporting such UFO's to NICAP concurrently with any report to the U.S. Air Force.

It is heartening to see that the U.S. Air Force regards the UFO sighted by Officers Bertrand and Hunt as an unknown. I am sure this will help a little in reducing the ridicule they experienced because of the U.S. Air Force initial explanation of their sightings. I feel certain that if it were not for the fact that their sighting is being carried nationally in the pages of Saturday Review, Look, etc.; and if they had not personally complained publicly and to your office, that their sighting would have been lumped into the same category as the UFO Muscarello and the other sighted. However, my rambling on will not make a bit of difference to present official policy and in a real sense I am wasting your time in even replying as I'm sure your office is very busy but I felt that I would express my feelings on the subject at hand just for the record.

Thanks so much again. I look forward to the time that Government policy will become more relaxed on the UFO subject and in the meantime will continue my meager research and efforts in this field for NICAP and the U.S. Air Force.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND E. FOWLER,

Chairman, NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee.

Mr. BATES. In reference to the so-called sighting in New Hampshire, Doctor, you are familiar with that case?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir; I am familiar with the case.

Mr. BATES. You have examined it?

Dr. HYNEK. No, I have not been there to examine it. Much of my information is based upon the rather excellent account that Mr. John Fuller has given of it in Look magazine. I cannot vouch for the authenticity of his statements, but I have talked with Mr. Fuller, and he apparently has tried to do a very thorough job in talking with people in New Hampshire.

Mr. BATES. Are you familiar with Mr. Raymond E. Fowler?

Dr. HYNEK. I have had some correspondence with him, but I have never met him.

Mr. BATES. Is this Portsmouth case one of the 5 percent that have not been identified, or within the 95 percent on which you have reached a decision?

Dr. HYNEK. It is, I believe, to the best of my knowledge, listed as unidentified.

Mr. BATES. This one is still unidentified?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, you make no bones about it, you cannot explain it?

Dr. HYNEK. That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. BATES. I wonder if you would give us some idea of these 20 cases that you have cited, and tell us a little something about the nature of these cases, and what the problems are, generally?

Dr. HYNEK. Well, I do not have the case files with me. I should be happy to prepare them for submission. But in broad description, they vary quite a bit. They are either daytime sightings or nighttime sightings. I will describe one, which may not be necessarily typical. But it is an example of a sighting that puzzled some very solid citizens. These individuals happened to be—and I will withhold names, of course—two students of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. They were with two other people in a car, returning home one evening from shopping, about 9 p.m. In the distance they saw what they first took to be rotating blinker lights on a police car, and they thought there had been an accident down the road some place. They then decided that this couldn't be the case because the lights were a little too high. This illustrates the sort of thing we refer to as escalation of explanation.

When someone writes in or calls in that they have seen a space ship patrolling the earth, and this is not a fact, this is an interpretation of a fact, usually, what they have actually seen was a light. I am much more interested in the sincere individuals who report something, who say "I thought at first it was this, then I decided it couldn't be that, it had to be something else." In this escalation hypothesis, the incident I have described, these people said it could not have been blinker lights on a police car because they were too high. The next hypothesis was that it was an aircraft about to crash. As the object came closer all they could see were four huge red lights and an even larger brighter single white light. As it came closer to the car—the little 12-year-old girl in the back seat, became so frightened that she just tumbled over and hid her eyes.

I questioned these people for some 2 hours. They were very intelligent people and were truly puzzled. They did not for a moment think they were being visited by a vehicle from outer space. They were just puzzled. They simply wanted an explanation of what they had seen.

The object apparently extended upward at an angle of about 30 degrees, so that part of it could be seen above the telephone wires and part below. It hovered around the car for awhile. The man drove into a farmer's driveway, turned his lights out and listened, but could hear no noise. He backed out and as the object began to move away, he gave chase but could not catch up with it.

This was a case of four intelligent people seeing this strange object and reporting it. But no one else did. Why not? Was this some sort of a strange psychic projection, or something these people were particularly prone to? Why did this take place in an area which was

Secretary BROWN. I would like to know who he is and what his responsibilities are before I comment on this, Mr. Bates. Certainly, from the information contained in the letter that you quote, he appears to occupy a position of some responsibility.

Mr. BATES. It does seem to be. And as I read the letter which he has written to me, it is certainly written by a well-educated person. And of course, we here all kinds of comments on the other side of the issue now, with this Lunar II excursion around the moon, people say I suppose the people up there are making the same kind of reports as the doctor has just made to us. They are making these kinds of statements.

Doctor, to be more specific, the paper which I have—Mr. Chairman, I would like to get unanimous consent to insert in the record the information which has been provided to me.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

(The letter to Congressman Bates is as follows:)

WENHAM, Mass., April 1, 1966.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

(Attention, Speaker John W. McCormack).

DEAR SIR: My name is Raymond E. Fowler. I am employed as a project administrative engineer in the Minuteman Program Office for Sylvania Electric Products, Waltham, Mass. I am presently serving as chairman of a Technical Investigating Subcommittee for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Wash., D.C.

The reasons for my writing are twofold, firstly—I have been asked by NICAP to submit to you our subcommittee's complete file covering our investigation of the Exeter, New Hampshire UFO sighting witnessed at close range by local citizens and police officers on September 3, 1965. I am sure that you are aware of this sighting as it gained nationwide publicity recently through NICAP-backed articles in the Saturday Review and Look magazines. Secondly, I do want to put myself on record as supporting the claims and views of NICAP and others which indicate that congressional hearings on the matter of UFO's are long overdue.

I feel that the American people are capable of understanding the problems and implications that will arise if the true facts about UFO's are made known officially. The USAF public information program and policy, as directed by the Pentagon, of underrating the significance of UFO's and not releasing true, pertinent facts about UFO's, is not only a disservice to the American people now but in the long run could prove to have been a foolish policy to follow. After years of study, I am certain that there is more than ample high-quality observational evidence from highly trained and reliable witnesses to indicate that there are machinelike solid objects under intelligent control operating in our atmosphere. The aerodynamic performance and characteristics of the true UFO rule out manmade or natural phenomena. Such observational evidence has been well supported in many instances by reliable instruments such as cameras, radar, geiger-counters, variometers, electrical interference, physical indentations in soil and scorched areas at landing sites, etc.

I am reasonably sure that if qualified civilian scientists and investigators are able to come to this conclusion, that the USAF, supported by the tremendous facilities at its disposal, have come to the same conclusion long ago. However, present official policy deliberately attempts to discredit the validity of UFO's and a wealth of data and facts are not being released to the public.

I trust that you will examine the attached UFO report and related correspondence in detail. Sightings such as the Exeter, N.H., sighting have and are occurring throughout the world at night and in the daytime. It is high time that the real facts about UFO's are released. A public information program should

Declassified

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library
be inaugurated that presents facts. I am urging you to support a full commission open inquiry on the UFO problem.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND E. FOWLER

Chairman NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee.

(The attachments to the previous letter are as follows:)

[Excerpt from Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader, Sept. 6, 1965]

POLICE, CIVILIANS SIGHT UFO IN EXETER AREA

EXETER.—At least five people here, including two police officers, have reported seeing a flying saucer in this area.

The incidents occurred early Friday morning. According to those who saw the unidentified flying object, it was about the size of a house and had a red glow around it, and moved silently through the night.

When Exeter police investigated a parked car on the Exeter-Hampton bypass at about 12:30 investigating officer Eugene Bertrand, who approach the car and found two women in a state of near shock. They told that they had been chased along Route 101 all the way from Epping, about 12 miles, by flying object which glowed with a brilliant halo of red. According to the women, the "thing" followed their car until they stopped.

As the one woman told their story one of them sighted the object once more, about 2 miles away, which Bertrand thought was a star low on the horizon.

REPORTS CHASE

At 12 a.m., Norman J. Muscarello, 18, of 205½ Front Street, Exeter, came into the police station with a hair-raising report of having been chased by a flying object as he was hitchhiking toward Exeter on Route 150 in Kensington.

Muscarello told Desk Officer Reginald Toland that as he walked along the highway, a large, brilliant object began making passes on an adjacent field and house and along the highway. Not knowing what it was and being understandably shaken, he crouched in a ditch along the road as the object, so brilliantly red that its shape could not be determined in the glow, made what seemed to him to be searching passes at him.

Shortly thereafter the "thing" disappeared silently, as quickly as it had appeared. Muscarello then hitched a ride to the police station and related what he had seen.

Although Muscarello's story was extraordinary, Patrolman Bertrand drove him back to the scene of the incident in the police cruiser. When they arrived, nothing was there.

POLICE SEE UFO

Officer Bertrand suggested that they walk into the field where the flying object was last seen, and they were joined there by Exeter Patrolman David Hunt, who also drove to the scene. Bertrand was talking reassuringly when Muscarello shouted "Look, there it is, rising up from behind those trees." The officers spun around and looked.

From behind a stand of trees in the black of the night, a huge blinding glow of brilliant red light surrounding it, the object rose, not fast but waveringly.

It traveled slowly and yawed slightly from side to side. They were stunned by the blinding red light as it moved toward them across the field. The object seemed to be coming toward them and Bertrand made a move toward his police service revolver but thought better of it. Then the three men ran to the police cruisers. When questioned on the size of the object, Officer Bertrand estimated it to be "about the size of a house."

Usually, when incidents such as this are reported, the sightings take place over a period of a few seconds, but in this instance, the men observed the object for 15 or 20 minutes at what appeared to be a relatively short distance.

One of the most amazing points which Officer Bertrand made while being interviewed was the complete absence of sound as the flying object hovered over

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

jump to the far-out conclusion that the earth is host to space visitors. Surely, in scientific fairness, we must examine other hypotheses.

As early as 1952, in a paper written for the journal of the Optical Society of America, I called for scientific attention to the problem, pointing out that "ridicule is not a part of the scientific method and the public should not be taught that it is."

In 1953, I had further recommendations to make, when I wrote in a report to the Air Force:

It occurs to me that the public interest in "flying saucers" may be dormant, but can be excited with small provocation. I would recommend that: (1) selected "unknowns" continue to be worked upon and due publicity be given them when a satisfactory solution is reached; (2) an announcement be made that the Air Force is interested in the phenomena which cause reports on a scientific basis; (3) use of a small civilian scientific panel to examine a few selected "unknowns."

And this, I repeat, was my recommendation in 1953. In 1965, in my capacity as scientific consultant, I again advised that the reports be studied by a civilian scientific group, in a letter to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force:

If there be any potential scientific value in the fragmentary UFO reports, as scientific consultant it is clearly my duty to point this out. I have done so, in the past on a less formal basis, in private conversation with, and informal reports to, Air Force officials. I feel it is my responsibility to point out that enough puzzling sightings have been reported by intelligent and often technically competent people to warrant closer attention than Project Blue Book can possibly encompass at the present time. * * * If the preliminary survey of the problem should bear me out, namely that there exists the possibility of new scientific information in the UFO phenomenon, then definitely let the recommendation be made to have the National Academy of Sciences or some other civilian group of recognized stature, undertake a longer study of the reported phenomena.

I am happy that my appearance before this committee affords me a chance to once again reiterate my recommendations.

Specifically, it is my opinion that the body of data accumulated since 1948 through the Air Force investigations deserves close scrutiny by a civilian panel of physical and social scientists, and that this panel should be asked to examine the UFO problem critically for the express purpose of determining whether a major problem really exists.

I would, of course, be willing to assist such a panel in whatever way I might and would even be willing to take a short leave of absence from my university if it would help place this problem in its proper perspective.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. You say you can't write these reports off. You can't ridicule those who have made them. They are highly responsible people, in various walks of life, that have reported them. And that sometime in the past you recommended that a panel be set up to clear these things, a civilian panel, to obviate the accusation that the Air Force is or has been hiding their reports.

Now, are you saying to us this morning that there should be a panel set up of scientists authorized by the Air Force before whom these things may be brought, and from whom a report could come?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir. I am saying that. This would be the gist of my statement.

However, I have been scooped by Secretary Brown who has mentioned that the Scientific Advisory Board has recommended the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN. What you have recommended is being done now?

Dr. HYNEK. It is about to be done, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN. Is about to be done?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes. I should like to make one comment:

The puzzling thing is that one would think many more people would see these flying objects than do. There should be many more witnesses. We should see a craft, if it actually exists as a tangible thing, and we should see it go from point to point. This doesn't seem to happen. Also, there should be far more radar sightings. During the international geophysical year, I was in charge of the optical satellite tracking program, and you would think with the surveillance that the astronomers placed on the sky, if these objects existed as tangible objects, surely these astronomers would have seen more than they did. It is a dilemma. It is a puzzle, as you say, as to how responsible people can report such objects, and that they are not obvious to scientists.

The CHAIRMAN. And then they see them and they disappear and they don't know where they go, and they land in these remote places where there is no intelligence to procure?

Dr. HYNEK. I would say so, yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. We don't know where they go, who they have on board, we see them a few moments, and then they are gone. This is the end of that.

This is what puzzles me. I am not going to ask further questions, because I am not knowledgeable with respect to the varying reports, that have been made.

So I will turn it over to some of the experts, and I will start with Mr. Bates.

Mr. BATES. Mr. Chairman, I don't know—if I have to qualify on that basis.

But, Secretary Brown, you indicated no one of scientific knowledge in your organization has concluded these phenomena come from extraterrestrial sources?

Secretary BROWN. That is correct. We know of no phenomena or vehicles, intelligently guided, which have come from extraterrestrial sources. I excluded meteors, which do come from extraterrestrial sources.

Mr. BATES. Is this your conclusion, Doctor?

Dr. HYNEK. This is also my conclusion. I know of no competent scientist today who would argue the sightings which do puzzle intelligent people. Puzzling cases exist, but I know of no competent scientist who would say that there objects come from outer space.

Mr. BATES. Then what you are looking for is an explanation in natural phenomena, thus far you have not determined the factors involved in it?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes.

Mr. BATES. But the interesting thing, of course, is we have so many prominent people in the scientific world here who have taken a position, a rather strong position—I have here a letter from a constituent of mine. He is a project administrator or engineer in the MINUTEMAN program. That is a responsible position, would we say?

General McCONNELL. Yes.

Mr. BATES. On the basis of scientific ability he has been given a rather important position toward the security of this country; is that correct?

Now, Doctor, before you give us this, would you give your back-ground for the record?

Dr. HYNEK. Yes, sir. This information is included in my statement.

STATEMENT OF DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK, SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT TO THE AIR FORCE

Dr. HYNEK. My name is J. Allen Hynek, and I reside at 2623 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Ill. I am director of the Dearborn Observatory and of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center, and Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. Since 1948 I have acted as a frequent scientific consultant to the Air Force on the problem of the UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) phenomenon.

The UFO phenomenon might be defined as (1) the persistent reporting by a wide cross section of the public, in this and in other countries, of alleged aerial objects which, to the observer, seem to defy explanation because of their appearance and behavior, and (2) the widespread and growing interest in these matters by segments of the public which, in some cases, has led to the formation of civilian organizations dedicated to the investigation of the said reports, often accompanied by vilification of the Air Force for their handling of the problem, a matter not beneficial to the Air Force image. Such people generally charge either (a) that UFO's are in reality secret devices of the Air Force, whose existence is kept from the public, or (b) that the Air Force knows all about visitors from space and is deliberately withholding information to prevent panic.

A third aspect of the UFO phenomenon has been the association of the terms UFO or "flying saucer" with the idea of visitation of intelligences from outer space, an association which is not warranted either by the data on hand, or by logical inference. It is entirely conceivable that there might be unidentified aerial phenomena about us which have no connection with extraterrestrial visitation.

Thus, the phenomenon should essentially be viewed in its entirety: The fact that the recent sightings in Michigan caused a reaction far out of proportion to the original sightings, the fact that my press conference in Detroit the week before last was the largest in the history of the Detroit Press Club, the fact that I receive many letters from schoolchildren who are writing class reports on UFO's and indeed the fact that I am speaking here before you, are all parts of the UFO phenomenon.

In this context, the kind of activity that the press has reported in Michigan is not unusual. It only happened that the Dexter and Hillsdale incidents, although of little scientific significance, have attracted national interest. Now, similar incidents, and some considerably more intriguing, have been occurring for many years, without such treatment on the part of the news media. While such glamorous attention is quick to wane, the underlying concern about UFO's, fed by a continuous trickle of reports, is indeed growing in the mind and sight of the public.

During this entire period of nearly 20 years I have attempted to remain as openminded on this subject as circumstances permitted, this despite the fact that the whole subject seemed utterly ridiculous, and

many of us firmly believed that, like some fad or craze, it would subside in a matter of months. Yet in the last 5 years, more reports were submitted to the Air Force than in the first 5 years.

Despite the seeming inanity of the subject, I felt that I would be derelict in my scientific responsibility to the Air Force if I did not point out that the whole UFO phenomenon might have aspects to it worthy of scientific attention. What we have here is a signal-to-noise ratio problem: There is indeed a fantastic amount of noise, represented by the many misidentifications of familiar objects seen under unusual or surprising circumstances—balloons, birds, satellites, meteors, aircraft, stars—yet, in all scientific honesty, one is led to ask whether there might not indeed be a signal somewhere in the noise.

As a scientist, I must be mindful of the lessons of the past; all too often it has happened that matters of great value to science were overlooked because the new phenomenon simply did not fit the accepted scientific outlook of the time. Thus, the evidence of fossils for biological evolution was overlooked; X-rays were overlooked, meteorites were overlooked as astronomers steadfastly refused to accept stories of stones which fell from the sky.

Therefore, I have set aside for further study some 20 particularly well-reported UFO cases which, despite the character, technical competence and number of the witnesses, I have not been able to explain. I have done this to illustrate that neither I nor the Air Force hide the fact there are unexplained reports, and to illustrate also that the Air Force does not maintain, contrary to some public opinion, that reporters of UFO's are lacking in intelligence or are objects fit only for ridicule.

For of these reports, 10 are from scientists and highly trained individuals, 5 are from members of the Armed Forces, and members of the police force, and 5 are reports made by reliable American civilians. In my view, the reliability of the observers was above average in all 20 cases. The recent cases in Michigan have not been included in this particular collection since I feel that they are subject to simple, albeit somewhat unusual, explanation.

I cannot prove beyond doubt that this is the case, but these two now famous reports illustrate the method the Air Force has used with great success in finding logical explanations for the great majority of the reports.

We have used as a working hypothesis, when first confronted with a report, that a conventional explanation existed, either as a misidentification or an otherwise well-known object or phenomenon, a hallucination, or a hoax. This has been a very successful and productive hypothesis. One must be aware, however, that complete adherence to one hypothesis may turn out to be a roadblock in the pursuit of research endeavors.

As the saying goes, "If one digs too intently for coal he is apt to miss diamonds." Scientists should never be guilty of poverty of hypotheses. And in dealing with the truly puzzling cases, we have tended either to say that, if an investigation had been pursued long enough, the misidentified object would have been recognized, or that the sighting had no validity to begin with.

The UFO public, on the other hand, is equally prone to poverty of hypotheses: Either UFO's mean utter bilge and nonsense, or they

(Discussion off the record.)

The CHAIRMAN. We are going to decide what the future is going to be. I am talking about this testimony now. If there is no reason for them not being here, let them in here.

Secretary BROWN. This letter is unclassified. Some of the questions you ask may lead to classified material.

Mr. SCHWEIKER. Are all the files unclassified?

The CHAIRMAN. Let them come in and listen to the testimony. When we get into the questions we will decide.

Open the doors.

Mr. Secretary, we will let you start.

You gentlemen who have come in, the Secretary is explaining a letter he is sending to the committee.

You gentlemen of the press, TV, and radio, whatever you represent, listen. That is the best way to find out.

Go ahead.

(Secretary Brown repeats his statement previously read to the committee.)

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, I have before me some pages from Life magazine. I don't know what the date is, but it is recent.

Mr. KELLEHER. Two weeks ago, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Two weeks ago.

It mentioned 10,000-odd sightings of these mysterious objects. I note it has a picture.

Have you seen this? I will pass it on to you.

Secretary BROWN. Yes, I have seen the picture.

The CHAIRMAN. Here are two pictures. One taken in Oregon in 1950 and the other taken 4 years later in France. They both look very much alike. Actually it looks something like a battleship.

Then here is something on another page here that is alleged to have been seen in Michigan, and it is even sketched here with an antenna and all that goes with it.

Here is my question: Responsible, well-trained people, like pilots—I think some B-52 people, Mr. Kelleher?

Mr. KELLEHER. I don't recall that. I do remember sightings by commercial pilots.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly commercial pilots have reported all kinds of things.

How do you explain away these clearly defined mysterious things that these responsible people allege having seen.

How do your experts reconcile this?

Secretary BROWN. I will turn this over to my experts in a moment, Mr. Chairman.

However, I should like to say this: We haven't explained all of the reported sightings which we have investigated. We have explained 95 percent of them, but are not sure about the other 5 percent. There are possible explanations for the other 5 percent in most cases. However, since we can't prove that our findings are the correct explanations they are regarded as sightings which have not been completely accounted for.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, now, does anybody, in authority or of stature, allege that these things, whatever they may be, have come from other planets or from somewhere outside of this universe?

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Secretary BROWN. To the best of my knowledge, no one in the Air Force, and no one in the executive branch has expressed such a belief. Nor have I ever heard a Member of Congress make such a statement. I know of no one of scientific standing or executive standing, or with a detailed knowledge of this, in our organization who believes that they come from extraterrestrial sources.

The CHAIRMAN. But you have found parts of meteors and things of this character that have been continuing to hit the earth forever?

Secretary BROWN. Meteors, of course, are of extraterrestrial origin. I am talking about extraterrestrial flying craft.

The CHAIRMAN. Objects that are made for the purpose of coming to earth?

Secretary BROWN. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. That is what I have in mind.

Secretary BROWN. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. So then your testimony, or your answer in response to my letter in effect is that there are things caused by various phenomena, reflection of radar waves, the northern lights, somebody has said marsh gases.

Secretary BROWN. Yes; that is another explanation of some of the phenomena.

The CHAIRMAN. As well as meteors?

Secretary BROWN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What else?

Secretary BROWN. Some of them turn out to be balloons. Some of them turn out to be aircraft seen under peculiar circumstances, and so on.

And we can explain 95 percent of them this way. This does not imply that a large part of the remaining 5 percent, the unexplained ones, are not also of this character, but we simply have not been able to confirm this because we don't have enough information about these sightings.

It may also be that there are phenomena, the details of which we don't understand, which are natural phenomena, and which account for some of the sightings we have not identified. In certain instances, I think a further scientific explanation is a possibility. Therefore, we will continue to develop this approach.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, we have here Dr. Hynek, and Major Quintanilla.

We have these two gentlemen who are authorities on the Blue Book. One is a scientist, the other is the UFO project officer.

Now, we have asked that you gentlemen come. Dr. Hynek, is there anything you would like to say to us?

Dr. HYNEK. Mr. Chairman, the press has recently treated me rather unkindly.

The CHAIRMAN. You ought to be chairman of this committee.

Dr. HYNEK. The press has described me as "a puppet of the Air Force," and has stated that I say only what the Air Force tells me to say. I would like to do something which may be a little daring, and read to the committee a statement I have prepared which has certainly not been dictated by the Air Force.

The CHAIRMAN. At this point, I want you to turn the loud speaker up.

FIREBALL REPORT

Persons observing a fireball or meteor should report the information to the American Meteor Society. The information desired is contained below.

A very brilliant meteor or fireball is reported to have passed in your vicinity on ---- at the hour of ----. Will you please answer as fully as possible the following questions, which are asked on behalf of the American Meteor Society in order that permanent records of such phenomena may be obtained. When these reports are published each contributor whose report is fairly complete will be mentioned, if possible, and due credit given. It is only by the help of those who can give personal information that data can be secured for the computation of the orbits of meteors. These data are of great scientific value and all reasonable efforts should be made to obtain them. You will be unable probably to answer all questions below, but answer those you can, as they may be of the greatest importance.

(1) Give your name and address.
(2) Where were you when you saw the meteor? (If the town is small please give county as well.)
(3) Give the date, hour, and minute when the meteor appeared; also kind of time used.

(4) In what direction did it appear (or in what direction was it first seen)? This is not asking in what direction it was going.

(5) In what direction did it disappear (or in what direction was it last seen)? For questions (4) and (5), simply N, E, S, or W is not accurate enough, unless those were the exact directions. If compass is used, state it; also if magnetic correction has been applied to compass reading.

(6) At what height did it appear? (Use degrees in answering.)
(7) At what height did it disappear? (Use degrees in answering.)
(8) Did it pass directly overhead (i.e., through the zenith)?
(9) If not, to which side of the zenith did it go, and how far from it? (Use degrees in answering.)

(10) Did it appear to reach the horizon? What sort of a horizon have you?
(11) What angle did the path of the meteor make with the horizon and in which direction was it then going?

(12) If you are familiar with constellations describe the path of the meteor through the sky with reference to stars.

(13) Did the meteor appear to explode?

(14) What was the duration of its flight in seconds?

(15) Describe the train if one was left. If it lasted long enough to show drift, most carefully tell in what direction train drifted. (Give sketch, if possible, showing this with regard to horizon.)

(16) What was the duration of the train in seconds?

(17) Did you hear any sound?
How long after seeing the meteor was it before you heard this sound?

Did you hear an actual explosion?
How long after seeing the explosion was it before you heard it?

(18) Of what color was the meteor?

(19) What was the size of the meteor? (Compare it with the moon or with a planet or star.)

(20) Was more than one body seen before the explosion (if any)?

(21) What was condition of sky at time?

(22) Give names and addresses of others who saw the meteor.

(23) Please mail this reply to: Charles P. Oliver, American Meteor Society, 521 North Wynnewood Avenue, Narberth, Pa., 19072.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, let me ask you this. Should this be an executive session?

Secretary BROWN. No, nothing I have said so far has been classified, and nothing I will say.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any reason to keep this executive? I think we have a lot of people outside of the door. Let them come in.

Mr. PRICE. In view of the reason you are having it, I see no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't either. Why not open the door?

Mr. BRAY. I would like to make this observation off the record.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Astronomical.....	10	2	11	4	2	10	37	82	30	37	22	12	246
Aircraft.....	11	2	14	11	14	3	32	61	20	12	14	5	210
Balloon.....	3	1	3	3	0	1	7	16	9	7	0	2	53
Insufficient data.....	5	4	1	4	4	3	16	24	15	9	3	3	96
Other.....	11	3	1	8	5	8	9	42	15	9	11	3	122
Satellite.....	4	5	2	5	15	5	42	41	24	3	0	3	152
Unidentified.....	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	4	4	0	1	0	16
Pending.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	4	2	17
Total.....	45	35	43	36	41	33	135	262	104	70	55	28	667
ASTRONOMICAL CASES													
Meteors.....	6	6	8	2	2	4	14	26	13	4	9	3	101
Stars and planets.....	3	1	3	2	0	5	10	55	16	30	13	7	135
Other.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	1	0	0	9
Total.....	10	8	11	4	2	10	27	82	30	27	22	12	245
OTHER CATEGORY													
Hoaxes, hallucinations, unreliable reports, and psychological causes.....	5	3	4	1	2	1	2	12	1	3	0	0	34
Missiles and rockets.....													10
Reflections.....													4
Flares and fireworks.....													4
Mirages and inversions.....													5
Search and ground lights.....	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	9
Clouds and contrails.....	1								1				3
Chaff.....													1
Birds.....	1	1	2	2				3	1	1	1		11
Physical specimens.....													3
Radar analysis.....													3
Photo analysis.....													6
Satellite decay.....													12
Miscellaneous.....	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	17	0	1	0	1	23
Total.....	11	8	7	8	5	6	9	42	7	9	11	3	126

Compiled Jan. 18, 1966.

Solar image.

Moon.

Sun.

Reflected moonlight, parabola, moon.

Reflected moonlight.

Comet Ikeya-Seki.

Metal ball.

Plastic bags.

Sound.

Astronomical propagation.

Electronic countermeasures.

False targets.

Weather returns.

Developer smear.

Free falling object.

Photo process.

No time film.

Tracer bullets.

Misinterpretation of conventional objects (3).

Kites.

Debris in wind.

Dust on ground.

Lightning.

Chemical trails from research rocket.

Missile launch.

The third and by far the smallest group of evaluations is categorized as "Unidentified." A sighting is considered unidentified when a photograph contains all pertinent data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis concerning the cause or explanation of the report but the description of the object or its motion cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomena.

TYPES OF UFO IDENTIFICATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

There are various types of UFO sightings. Most common are reports of astronomical sightings, which include bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, auroral streamers, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, moving clouds, or other obscurations or unusual conditions, the planets, including Venus, Jupiter, and Mars have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Stellar mirages are also a source of reports.

Satellites are another major source of UFO reports. An increase in satellites reported as UFO's has come about because of two factors. The first is the increase of interest on the part of the public; the second is the increasing number of satellites in the skies. Positive knowledge of the location of all satellites at all times enables rapid identification of satellite sightings. Keeping track of manmade objects in orbit about the earth is the responsibility of the North American Air Defense Command space detection and tracking system. This sophisticated electronic system gathers complex space traffic data instantly from tracking stations all over the world.

Other space surveillance activities include the use of ballistic tracking and large telescopic cameras. ECHO schedules are prepared by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Md., and schedules of the south-north Equator crossings are prepared by the Smithsonian Institution at Cambridge, Mass. From the data produced by these agencies, satellites mistakenly reported as UFO's can be quickly identified. Some of these are visible to the naked eye.

Aircraft account for another major source of UFO reports, particularly during adverse weather conditions. When observed at high altitudes and at some distance, aircraft can have appearances ranging from disc to rocket shapes due to the reflection of the sun on their bright surfaces. Vapor or condensation trails from jet aircraft will sometimes appear to glow fiery red or orange when reflecting sunlight. Afterburners from jet aircraft are often reported as UFO's since they can be seen from great distances when the aircraft cannot be seen.

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Agency civil air control centers. All aerial refueling operations and special training flights can be checked immediately. Air traffic of commercial airlines and flights of military aircraft are checked with the nearest control center, enabling an immediate evaluation of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFO's. However, since many local flights are not carried, these flights are probable causes of some reports.

Balloons continue to be reported as UFO's. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian airports, weather stations, and research activities. There are several types of balloons—weather balloons, rawinsondes, radiosondes, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 300 feet. At night, balloons carry running lights which cause an unusual appearance when observed. Reflection of the sun on balloons at dawn and sunset sometimes produce strange effects. This usually occurs when the balloon, because of its altitudes, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 100 miles per hour when moving in high altitude jet windstreams. These balloons sometimes appear to be flattened on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer-shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag itself due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Center at Holloman Air Force Base, N. Mex., maintains a plot on all military upper air research balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled "Other" includes missiles, reflections, mirages, searchlights, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, hoaxes, fireworks, and flares.

Aircraft, satellites, balloons, and the like should not be reported since they do not fall within the definition of an unidentified flying object.

CONCLUSIONS

To date, the firm conclusions of Project Blue Book are: (1) no unidentified flying object reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever

given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as unidentified represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as unidentified are extra terrestrial vehicles.

The Air Force will continue to investigate all reports of unusual aerial phenomena over the United States. The services of qualified scientists and technicians will continue to be used to investigate and analyze these reports, and periodic reports on the subject will be made.

The former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Carl Vinson, recently commented on the conduct of the UFO program by the Air Force and stated that congressional hearings on this subject are unnecessary.

The Air Force does not deny the possibility that some form of life may exist on other planets in the universe. However, to date, the Air Force has neither received nor discovered any evidence which proves the existence and intraspace mobility of extra terrestrial life. The Air Force continues to extend an open invitation to anyone who feels that he possesses any evidence of extra terrestrial vehicles operating within the earth's near space envelope to submit his evidence for analysis. Initial contact for this purpose is through the following address: Project Blue Book Information Office, SAFOI, Washington, D.C.

Anyone observing what he considers to be an unidentified flying object should report it to the nearest Air Force base. Persons submitting a UFO report to the Air Force are free to discuss any aspect of the report with anyone. The Air Force does not seek to limit discussion on such reports and does not withhold or censor any information pertaining to this unclassified program.

NONAVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS

The following items are for internal use only and are not available for distribution to the public. These concern internal management and procedures for forwarding UFO reports to the appropriate agency:

1. Air Force Regulation 200-2.
2. JANAP 146.

The Air Force has no films, photographs, maps, charts, or graphs of unidentified flying objects. Photographs that have been submitted for evaluation in conjunction with UFO reports have been determined to be a misinterpretation of natural or conventional objects. These objects have a positive identification.

The Air Force no longer possesses, and thus does not have for distribution, outdated reports on Project Sign, Project Grudge, Blue Book Special Report No. 14, and outdated Project Blue Book press releases. Nonmilitary UFO publications should be requested from the publisher, not the Air Force.

SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL

Books listed below deal with facts and theories about our solar universe, the sun, planets, comets, meteorites, the universe, stars, constellations, and galaxies; telescopes, the computation of time as it relates to astronomy, star maps and charts, and the history of astronomy.

"Sky and Telescope," by Sky Publishing Corp., Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Monthly magazine, 60 cents per copy.

"Weather Elements," by Blair, published Prentice Hall. Has an excellent chapter on often misidentified weather phenomena.

"Planets, Stars, and Space," by Chamberlain, Joseph M., and Nicholson, Thomas D. An illustrated, untechnical explanation of the earth, planets, stars, and the universe. Prepared in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History.

"Junior Science Book of Stars," by Crosby, Phoebe. An easy to read, exciting story of what scientists know about the stars, planets, the Moon, and the Milky Way.

"Challenge of the Universe," by Hynek, J. Allen and Anderson, Norman. Discusses the nature of the universe; astronomy and cosmology, published by Scholastic Press.

"The Story of the Stars," by Maloney, Terry. An introduction to the universe; our solar system, our galaxy, and other galaxies. Many interesting illustrated analogies help build concepts of size and distance. Includes reference to the Van Allen radiation belts and zodiacal light observation of 1960.

Declassified

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The name of this project is Blue Book (attachment 1). Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force regulation 200-2 (attachment 2).

The Air Force has conducted Project Blue Book since 1948. As of June 30, 1965, a total of 9,267 reports had been investigated by the Air Force. Of these 9,267 reports, 663 cannot be explained.

It has been determined by the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff/Plans and Operations that Project Blue Book is a worthwhile program which deserves the support of all staff agencies and major commands and that the Air Force should continue to investigate and analyze all UFO reports in order to assure that such objects do not present a threat to our national security. The Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff/Plans and Operations has determined also that the Foreign Technology Division (FTD) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base should continue to exercise its presently assigned responsibilities concerning UFO's.

To date, the Air Force has found no evidence that any of the UFO reports reflects a threat to our national security. However, many of the reports that cannot be explained have come from intelligent and technically well qualified individuals whose integrity cannot be doubted. In addition, the reports received officially by the Air Force include only a fraction of the spectacular reports which are publicized by any private UFO organizations.

Accordingly, it is requested that a working scientific panel composed of both physical and social scientists be organized to review Project Blue Book—its resources, methods, and findings—and to advise the Air Force as to any improvements that should be made in the program in order to carry out the Air Force's assigned responsibility.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek who is the chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University is the scientific consultant to Project Blue Book. He has indicated a willingness to work with such a panel in order to place this problem in its proper perspective.

Dr. Hynek has discussed this problem with Dr. Winston R. Markey, the former Air Force Chief Scientist.

E. B. LeBAILLY,
Major General, USAF, Director of Information.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's)

AGENDA

Thursday, 3 February 1966

- 0800 Welcoming remarks: Commander or vice commander, FTD.
- 0805 Introduction: Dr. O'Brien, SAB.
- 0810 The Air Force problem: Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding, SAFOI.
- 0830 Briefing on Project Blue Book: Major Quintanilla, FTD.
- 1000 Break.
- 1015 Review of selected case histories: FTD Staff.
- 1145 Lunch.
- 1315 Executive and writing session.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE USAF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE
TO REVIEW PROJECT BLUE BOOK

Distribution

	Symbol	Copies
Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information.....	SAFOI.....	25
Military Director, DCS/R. & D.....	AFRDC.....	1
Committee members (1 each): Dr. Brian O'Brien (chairman), Dr. Lauror F. Carter, Mr. Jesse Orlansky, Dr. Richard Porter, Dr. Carl Sagan, Dr. Willis H. Ware.....		6
Commander, Foreign Technology Division.....		5
DCS/Foreign Technology (AFSC).....	SCF.....	2
Chairman, SAB.....	AFBSA.....	1
SAB secretariat.....	AFBSA.....	1

Meeting statistics bearing on this report including all times, dates, places, a listing of persons in attendance and purposes therefor, together with their affilia-

Declassified

Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force regulation 200-2 (attachment 2).

Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force regulation 200-2 (attachment 2).

and material reviewed and discussed, are available in the SAB secretariat offices for review by authorized persons or agencies.

Approved by:

HAROLD A. STEINER,
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF,
Assistant Secretary, USAF Scientific Advisory Board.

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The U.S. Air Force has the responsibility under the Department of Defense for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). The name of this program, which has been in operation since 1948, is Project Blue Book. It has been identified in the past as Project Sign and Project Grudge.

Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States. Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force Regulation 200-2.

The objectives of the Project Blue Book are twofold: first, to determine whether UFO's pose a threat to the security of the United States; and, second, to determine whether UFO's exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research. In the course of accomplishing these objectives, Project Blue Book strives to identify and explain all UFO sightings reported to the Air Force.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED

The program is conducted in three phases. The first phase includes receipt of UFO reports and initial investigation of the reports. The Air Force base nearest the location of a reported sighting is charged with the responsibility of investigating the sighting and forwarding the information to the Project Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If the initial investigation does not reveal a positive identification or explanation, a second phase of more intensive analysis is conducted by the Project Blue Book Office. Each case is objectively and scientifically analyzed and, if necessary, all of the scientific facilities available to the Air Force can be used to assist in arriving at an identification or explanation. All personnel associated with the investigation, analysis, and evaluation efforts of the project view each report with a scientific approach and an open mind.

The third phase of the program is dissemination of information concerning UFO sightings, evaluations, and statistics. This is accomplished by the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information.

The Air Force defines an unidentified flying object as any aerial object which the observer is unable to identify.

Reports of unfamiliar objects in the sky are submitted to the Air Force from many sources. These sources include military and civilian pilots, weather observers, amateur astronomers, business and professional men and women, and housewives, etc.

Frequently such objects as missiles, balloons, birds, kites, searchlights, aircraft navigation and anticollision beacons, jet engine exhaust, condensation trails, astronomical bodies and meteorological phenomena are mistakenly reported as unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force groups its evaluations of UFO reports under three general headings: (1) identified, (2) insufficient data, and (3) unidentified.

Identified reports are those for which sufficient specific information has been accumulated and evaluated to permit a positive identification or explanation of the object.

Reports categorized as "Insufficient Data" are those for which one or more elements of information essential for evaluation are missing. Some examples are the omission of the duration of the sighting, date, time, location, position in the sky, weather conditions, and the manner of appearance or disappearance. If the element is missing and there is an indication that the sighting may be of security, scientific, technical, or public interest value, the Project Blue Book Office conducts an additional investigation and every attempt is made to obtain the information necessary for identification. However, in some instances, essential information cannot be obtained, and no further action can be taken.

It seems entirely likely that as the present spring thaw came, the trapped gases, CH_4 , H_2S , and PH_3 , resulting from decomposition of organic material, were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, Phosphine PH_3 usually bursts into flame apparently because it is ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impure P_2H_4 . The will-of-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3 which might be formed by reduction of naturally occurring phosphorus compound."

It has been pointed out to the investigating personnel by other scientists in this area that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of PH_3 .

The association of the sightings with swamps in this particular instance is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamp. The glow was localized, and Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp as visible through the trees. He stated that the light brightened and dimmed such as stage do—smoothly and slowly—and this description exactly fits the Hillsdale sighting also. The brightening and dimming could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the lights when people got close with flashlights or car-lights would indicate that the glow seemed bright to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark and there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the swamp lights.

It appears very likely that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter (an unusually mild one in that area) and the particular weather conditions of that night—it was clear and there was little wind at either location—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE USAF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PROJECT BLUE BOOK

I. INTRODUCTION

As requested in a memorandum from Maj. Gen. E. B. LeBailly, Secretary of the Air Force Officer of Information, dated September 28, 1965 (tab A), a Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee met on February 3, 1966, to review Project Blue Book. The objectives of the committee are to review the resources and methods of investigation prescribed by Project Blue Book and to advise the Air Force of any improvements that can be made in the program to enhance the Air Force's capability in carrying out its responsibility.

In order to bring themselves up to date, the members of the committee initially reviewed the findings of previous scientific panels charged with looking into the UFO problem. Particular attention was given to the report of the Robertson panel which was rendered in January 1953. The committee next heard briefings from the AFSC Foreign Technology Division, which is the cognizant Air Force agency that collates information on UFO sightings and monitors investigations of individual cases. Finally, the committee reviewed selected case histories of UFO sightings with particular emphasis on those that have not been identified.

II. DISCUSSION

Although about 6 percent (646) of all sightings (10,147) in the years 1947 through 1965 are listed by the Air Force as "Unidentified," it appears to the committee that most of the cases so listed are simply those in which the information available does not provide an adequate basis for analysis. In this connection it is important also to note that no unidentified objects other than those of an astronomical nature have ever been observed during routine astronomical studies, in spite of the large number of observing hours which have been devoted to the sky. As examples of this the Palomar Observatory Sky Atlas contains some 5,000 plates made with large instruments with wide field of view; the Harvard meteor project of 1954-58 provided some 3,300 hours of observation; the Smithsonian visual prairie network provided 2,500 observing hours. Not a single unidentified object has been reported as appearing on any of these plates or been sighted visually in all these observations.

The committee concluded that in the 19 years since the first UFO was sighted there has been no evidence that unidentified flying objects are a threat to our national security. Having arrived at this conclusion the committee then turned its attention to considering how the Air Force should handle the scientific aspects

of the UFO problem. Unavoidably these are also related to Air Force public relations, a subject on which the committee is not expert. Thus the recommendations which follow are made simply from the scientific point of view.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of the committee that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized, although the resources assigned to it (only one officer, a sergeant, and secretary) have been quite limited. In 19 years and more than 10,000 sightings recorded and classified, there appears to be no verified and fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology. Nevertheless, there is always the possibility that analysis of new sightings may provide some additions to scientific knowledge of value to the Air Force. Moreover, some of the case records which the committee looked at that were listed as "identified" were sightings where the evidence collected was too meager or too indefinite to permit positive listing in the identified category. Because of this the committee recommends that the present program be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail and depth than has been possible to date.

To accomplish this it is recommended that—

(a) Contracts be negotiated with a few selected universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth certain selected sightings of UFO's. Each team should include at least one psychologist, preferably one interested in clinical psychology, and at least one physical scientist, preferably an astronomer or geophysicist familiar with atmospheric physics. The universities should be chosen to provide good geographical distribution, and should be within convenient distance of a base of the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC).

(b) At each AFSC base an officer skilled in investigation (but not necessarily with scientific training) should be designated to work with the corresponding university team for that geographical section. The local representative of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) might be a logical choice for this.

(c) One university or one not-for-profit organization should be selected to coordinate the work of the teams mentioned under (a) above, and also to make certain of very close communication and coordination with the Office of Project Blue Book.

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.

The scientific reports on these selected sightings, supplementing the present program of the Project Blue Book office, should strengthen the public position of the Air Force on UFO's. It is, therefore, recommended that—

(a) These reports be printed in full and be available on request.

(b) Suitable abstracts or condensed versions be printed and included in or as supplements to, the published reports of Project Blue Book.

(c) The form of report (as typified by Project Blue Book dated February 1, 1966) be expanded, and anything which might suggest that information is being withheld (such as the wording on page 5 of the above citation reference) be deleted. The form of this report can be of great importance in securing public understanding and should be given detailed study by an appropriate Air Force office.

(d) The reports Project Blue Book should be given wide unsolicited circulation among prominent Members of the Congress and other public persons as a further aid to public understanding of the scientific approach being taken by the Air Force in attacking the UFO problem.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., September 28, 1965.

Memorandum for military director, scientific advisory board
Subject: Unidentified flying objects (UFO's)

In keeping with its air defense role, the Air Force has the responsibility for the investigation of unidentified flying objects reported over the United States.

evaluating any possible threat to our national security. In carrying out this responsibility let me assure you that the Air Force is both objective and thorough in its treatment of all reports of unusual aerial objects over the United States.

Under the name "Project Blue Book," the Air Force carries out a three-phase program. We (1) make an initial investigation of each report received; (2) make a more detailed analysis of reports not explained; and (3) disseminate information on sightings, findings, and statistics.

In order to evaluate this subject as thoroughly as possible, the capabilities of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board have recently been focused upon the subject of UFO's. This Board has just completed a detailed review of this subject and concluded that the UFO phenomena presents no threat to the security of the United States, and that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized. Recommendations by the Board are presently under study and are expected to lead to even stronger emphasis on the scientific aspects of investigating the sightings that warrant extensive analysis.

Based upon 10,147 reported sightings from 1947 through 1965, a summary of which is attached, I believe it significant that the Air Force has succeeded in identifying 9,501 of these objects. Virtually all of these sightings were derived from subjective human observations and interpretations. The most common of these were astronomical sightings that included such things as bright stars and planets, comets and meteors, and fireballs and auroral streamers.

Other major sources of reported sightings include such objects as satellites, mirages, and spurious radar indications. The remaining 646 reported sightings are those in which the information available does not provide an adequate basis for analysis, or for which the information suggests an hypothesis but the object or phenomenon explaining it cannot be proven to have been here or taken place at that time.

In evaluating these sightings, the Air Force has used carefully selected and highly qualified scientists, engineers, technicians, and consultants. These personnel have utilized the finest Air Force laboratories, test centers, scientific instrumentation, and technical equipment for this purpose.

Although the past 18 years of investigating unidentified flying objects have not identified any threat to our national security, or evidence that the unidentified objects represent developments or principles beyond present-day scientific knowledge, or any evidence of extra-terrestrial vehicles, the Air Force will continue to investigate such phenomena with an open mind and with the finest technical equipment available.

I am attaching a special report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee To Review Project "Blue Book," the latest edition of Project Blue Book, dated February 1, 1966, and an Air Force statement regarding the UFO sightings at Dexter, Mich., on March 20, 1966, and at Hillsdale, Mich., on March 21, 1966.

I trust that the above information will be of assistance to you. If I can help you further in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library (The information referred to is as follows:)

Sightings of unidentified flying objects

Year	Total sightings	Unidentified	Year	Total sightings	Unidentified
1947	122	12	1958	627	1
1948	156	7	1959	390	1
1949	186	22	1960	557	1
1950	210	27	1961	591	1
1951	169	22	1962	474	1
1952	1,501	303	1963	399	1
1953	509	42	1964	562	1
1954	487	46	1965	886	1
1955	545	24	Total	10,147	61
1956	670	14			
1957	1,006	14			

AIR FORCE STATEMENT REGARDING THE UFO SIGHTINGS AT DEXTER, MICH., ON MARCH 20, 1966, AND HILLSDALE, MICH., ON MARCH 21, 1966

The investigation of these two sightings was conducted by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, scientific consultant to Project Blue Book; personnel from Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich.; and personnel from the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

In addition to these two specific cases, there has been a flood of reports from this area both before and after March 20 and 21. The investigating personnel have not had the time to investigate all of these. It has been determined, however, that in Hillsdale, over and above the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College, certain young men have played pranks with flares. It has also been determined that the photographs released yesterday through the press was taken on March 17 just before sunrise near Milan, Mich., and have nothing to do with the cases in question. The photograph clearly shows trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus.

The majority of observers in both the Dexter and Hillsdale cases have reported only silent glowing lights near the ground—red, yellow, and blue-green. They have not described an object. The only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards—better than a quarter of a mile away—a distance which does not allow details to be determined.

Witnesses have described glowing lights—lights that seem to move but never far from a definite place or lights which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. The locale in both cases was a swamp. In both cases, the location of the glow was pinpointed—in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and the distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomenon. The swampy location is most significant.

A swamp is a place of rotting vegetation and decomposition. Swamps are no a province of astronomers. Yet, the famous Dutch astronomer, Minnaert, in his book, "Light and Colour in the Open Air," describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer, Bessel, and other excellent observers. The light resemble tiny flames sometimes seen right on the ground and sometimes rising and floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors are sometimes yellow, sometimes red, and sometimes blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a stretch and sometimes for a whole night. Generally, there is no smell and no sound except for the popping sound of little explosions such as when a gas burner ignites.

The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped during the winter by ice. When the spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity. The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence, and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is unknown and could well be the subject of further investigation.

The glowing lights over the swamps near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for 2 or 3 hours, and they were red, green, and yellow. They appeared to move sideways and to rise a short distance. No sound was heard except a popping sound.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

2D SESSION, 89TH CONGRESS

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II

[No. 55]

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, D.C., Tuesday, April 5, 1966.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:35 a.m., the Honorable L. Mendel Rivers (chairman of the committee), presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. Let the committee come to order.

Members of the committee, Secretary Brown and General McConnell are back this morning for the purpose of responding to questions.

At the end of our last hearing I asked that Secretary Brown give us some information with respect to unidentified flying objects. I understand that he is prepared to do that this morning and I also understand that he has with him Dr. J. Allen Hynek, consultant to Project Blue Book, which is the group charged with responsibility with respect to UFO's. Also present this morning is Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Jr., UFO project officer.

I think it would be well to get the UFO business out of the way first. So I will ask Dr. Brown to give us his report at this time.

Mr. Secretary, see if you can shed some light on these highly illuminated objects.

We can't just write them off. There are too many responsible people who are concerned.

Mr. Ford has come out, he has a pretty good size stature in the Congress, and so tell me what you know, Mr. Secretary, and let's see if we can have some answers.

Go ahead, Mr. Secretary.

Secretary Brown. Mr. Chairman, I have a letter here which is addressed to you, and I signed it. Let me run through it quickly, because it summarizes pretty well what our views are on unidentified flying objects.

Following that, if there are some questions, I can try to answer them, or the Chief, or Dr. Hynek, or Major Quintanilla.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't we have the doctor come up to the table now, because when we start asking questions we will have him there, and we will just go all over the board.

Sit at the end of the table, Doctor.

Go ahead, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. HAROLD BROWN, SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE

Secretary Brown. This is in response of your recent request for information concerning Air Force activities in the area of reported unidentified flying objects.

Within the Department of Defense the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating reports on unidentified flying objects and of

(5001)

[No. 55]

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

HEARING

BY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

APRIL 5, 1966



[Pages of all documents printed in behalf of the activities of the House Committee on Armed Services are numbered cumulatively to permit a comprehensive index at the end of the Congress. Page numbers lower than those in this document refer to other subjects.]

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

50-068 O

WASHINGTON : 1966

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EH:

6/27/66

Phone call from Professor McDonald - University of Arizona - who said he had been in to see you recently. Wondered what was going on re the UFO problem. We told him nothing had been done to date.

Said to tell you that he has been at Project Bluebook and after that can concur even more heartily than ever with the sense of your resolution.

Will call again when he comes to town.

hb

Hutchinson Dec 5 - - -

REC'D JUL 3 1966

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

PITTSBURGH SUBCOMMITTEE

5709 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

July 2, 1966

Honorable Edward Hutchinson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

Richard Hall, Acting Director of NICAP, suggested that you might be interested in a document I am sending you under separate cover: a summary report of my investigation of an unidentified flying object "chased" from Ohio into Pennsylvania last April 17. I am chairman of NICAP's local subcommittee, and personally handled the investigation of this case and of the Air Force's treatment of it. Mr. Hall's suggestion was based on his knowledge of your interest in the way Project Blue Book treats the UFO problem.

This report, while concentrating on the UFO sighting and testimony from witnesses, is also substantially concerned with Project Blue Book's, specifically Major Hector Quintanilla's, handling of the event. Two Deputy Sheriffs and two other police officers were chiefly involved, but several other law enforcement officers also saw what may have been the same object. In no way is it possible that the Air Force's official explanation of this event is correct. The official explanation is that the deputies became hysterical when they observed an Echo satellite moving overhead, then chased the planet Venus for over seventy miles across several counties, at top speed.

I have corresponded with Congressman William Stanton about this; that correspondence is also included in the report. He was concerned over the adverse reflection on the professional integrity of the deputies, whose base is in his district. In that Blue Book's performance in this instance seems to be typical, you may find these details illuminating.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel, Chairman
Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee

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Explanation Is Challenged

(Continued from Page 1)

nesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. The glow was localized there." Van Horn: "Dr. Hynek is way off in left field in this statement. He was told not only by myself but also by the college girls of the observation made by the 17 girls of the approach of the object from the northeast, flashing by their window, disappearing to the south of them and then reappearing over the area and descending to where we observed it. Dr. Hynek was not interested in listening to this type of information and was extremely evasive on any questions that were asked regarding anything such as this. In addition, the glow was not localized as stated by Dr. Hynek but rather the lights did as I have stated before, ascended and descended and moved from side to side in a uniform manner."

13, 14—Hynek: "The night was dark—there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the lights in the swamp." Van Horn: "The night was dark as most nights are, but there was an occasional sighting of the moon as the sky condition was from a broken to a scattered condition. This statement is true that the lights were off in the room from which we were making the observation. However, just outside and below the windows there is this row of flood lights which were on which discounts the total darkness theory."

15—Hynek: "There was little wind at either location." In refuting this statement

Van Horn listed the wind velocity from 9 p. m., March 21 to 2 a. m. March 22. The wind speed is given in knots. One knot is equal to 1.1508 land miles.

9 p. m., 10 knots; 10 p. m., 7 knots; 11 p. m., 10 knots; 12 p. m., 8 knots; 1 a. m., 8 knots; 2 a. m., 10 knots.

Van Horn then went on to say: "The air has to be extremely quiet and calm for marsh gas or methane to accumulate in mass and form a glow. The above wind conditions would prove that this could not have happened."

Van Horn then explains that marsh gas is created by decomposing vegetation caused by an enzyme which is produced by bacteria.

"There is an optimum temperature at which these bacteria are most active and that temperature is from 35 to 40 degrees Centigrade. A temperature of 60 degrees Centigrade will destroy them and as the temperature lowers below 35 degrees the bacterial action will become gradually retarded which in essence means that the process of decay is gradually slowed, meaning that the gas formation is slowed or eventually stopped."

"It is my sincere belief that the bacteria requiring a temperature of 35 to 40 degrees Centigrade optimum temperature and our average mean temperature being minus one degree centigrade that it would have been impossible for little gas, if any, to have been present at this time of the year. If any gas was present, my contention is that it could not possibly have been present

in quantity enough to last for the period of time that we were making the observation."

In support of his theory that it was too cold for marsh gas to form, Van Horn includes a listing of the average high and low temperatures and the average mean temperature from November, 1965 to March 21, 1966. The average high for this five month period was five degrees centigrade. The average low was minus six and the average mean was minus one.

Letter Answered

Part three of William Van Horn's report on UFO's is a letter from Dr. J. Allen Hynek to Van Horn, written March 29, 1966. In it he says he is much interested in new evidence Van Horn was investigating at the time.

Among the things which Hynek says in his letter is a common complaint that many of the things he said about the Hillsdale sighting were taken out of context.

Van Horn's statement regarding Hynek's letter accuses Hynek of forming an opinion before ever arriving in Hillsdale.

Hynek stated in the letter he had received many letters advancing the marsh gas theory. Van Horn says he has received many letters from people in farming areas who claim the UFO's could not have been marsh gas at that time of year.

In his statement Van Horn

Kolp Delivers NC Address

PIONEER — Clark Kolp, accountant and insurance consultant will deliver the 1966 eighth grade graduation address at the North Central Junior High School in Kunkle May 27 at 8 p.m.

Mr. Kolp has had a wide variety of experiences and served on two occasions as assistant to C. William O'Neill while governor of Ohio and assistant to the president of De fiance College.

also alludes to another sighting March 24 at about 8 p.m. but will say only that the sighting was referred to Selfridge Air Force Base radar which reported two inanimate objects on the radar scope.

Van Horn concludes his comments on Hynek's letter by suggesting the possibility of some official block which has prevented a thorough study of UFO's.

* * *

"After studying Dr. Hynek's letter and if his feelings are as stated in the letter, I have a question in my mind. Dr. Hynek being the scientific consultant to the Air Force regarding the UFO situation, and having made the recommendations (that more thorough investigations of UFO's be made), where then is the block and why hasn't more intensive research been carried out. Someone, somewhere is forming this block for some unknown reason and I believe this is that thing that should be found.

Photo Copy from Hillsdale Press