

WENHAM, MASS., October 29, 1965.

MASTON M. JACKS,
Major, U.S. Air Force, Chief, Pictorial Branch,
Public Information Division, Office of Information.

SAF-OIPB

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MAJOR JACKS: This is a formal inquiry concerning the official U.S. Air Force evaluation of the detailed UFO report submitted to AFSC-FTD/Project Blue Book last month. My investigation and subsequent report took place shortly after the official U.S. Air Force investigating team from Pease AFB made their investigation.

The UFO sighting took place between the Clyde Russell and Carl Dining properties along Route 150 in Kensington, N.H., on September 3, 1965, in the early hours of the morning. The witnesses were Norman Muscarello and Officers Bertrand and Hunt of the Exeter, N.H., police force.

In 1964 I customarily received correspondence from your office in response to UFO reports submitted to the U.S. Air Force for evaluation. This was appreciated. I have submitted many reports since but have not received any response. This is understandable due to the many reports received by the U.S. Air Force and I do not expect such a service on your part normally, but, I did spend a great deal of time and thought on the Kensington, N.H., report and would appreciate your sending the official U.S. Air Force evaluation of the same as soon as possible. I understand the evaluation has been made.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I look forward to hearing from your office soon.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND E. FOWLER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, January 25, 1966.

DEAR MR. FOWLER: This is in reply to your request for information on the Exeter, N.H., UFO sightings.

The initial investigation from Pease Air Force Base was submitted to our office on September 15, 1965, and contained statements from the principal witnesses. This data indicated that a refueling operation might have been the cause of the sighting. Refueling area "Fur Trapper" and refueling area "Down Date" are controlled through Loring Air Force Base and located over the area of the sighting. A call was made to the controller of this refueling area, and we were informed that they were closed from 03/0500Z to 03/600Z for an 8th Air Force operation, "Big Blast." A call was placed to the 99th Bomb Wing at Westover Air Force Base for information on this operation.

The initial impression was that aircraft from an 8th Air Force operation, "Big Blast," was the cause of the lights observed during this incident. Information received from the 8th Air Force indicates that 10 B-47 aircraft from Pease Air Force Base involved in Operation Big Blast "Coco" were in the traffic pattern over Exeter, N.H., between 03/444Z and 03/535Z. A copy of this letter is enclosed. Since this information conflicted with the time of the sighting and eliminated these aircraft as a possible evaluation of this incident, a letter was forwarded to Mr. Eugene Bertrand and Mr. Dave Hunt of the Exeter Police Department requesting clarification of the time of the sighting. A copy of our letter to these gentlemen and a copy of their reply is attached.

The early sightings by two unnamed women and Mr. Muscarello are attributed to aircraft from operation Big Blast "Coco." The subsequent observation by Officers Bertrand and Hunt occurring after 2 a.m. are regarded as unidentified.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPAULDING,
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Chief, Civil Branch, Community Relations Division, Office of Information

DECEMBER 2, 1965.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr.,
Major, U.S. Air Force,
Chief, Project Blue Book,
Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

DEAR SIR: We were very glad to get your letter during the third week in November, because as you might imagine we have been the subject of considerable ridicule since the Pentagon released its "final evaluation" of our sighting

of September 3, 1965. In other words, both Patrolman Hunt and myself saw this object at close range, checked it out with each other, confirmed and re-confirmed the fact that this was not any kind of conventional aircraft, that it was at an altitude of not more than a couple of hundred feet, and went to considerable trouble to confirm that the weather was clear, there was no wind, no chance of weather inversion, and that what we were seeing was no illusion or military or civilian craft. We entered this in a complete official police report as a supplement to the blotter of the morning of September 3 (not September 2, as your letter indicates). Since our job depends on accuracy and an ability to tell the difference between fact and fiction, we were naturally disturbed by the Pentagon report which attributed the sighting to "multiple high-altitude objects" in the area and "weather inversion." What is a little difficult to understand is the fact that your letter (undated) arrived considerably after the Pentagon release. Since your letter says that you are still in the process of making a final evaluation, it seems that there is an inconsistency here. Ordinarily, this wouldn't be too important except for the fact that in a situation like this we are naturally very reluctant to be considered irresponsible in our official report to the police station.

Since one of us (Patrolman Bertrand) was in the Air Force for 4 years engaged in refueling operations with all kinds of military aircraft, it was impossible to mistake what we saw for any kind of military operation, regardless of altitude. It was also definitely not a helicopter or balloon. Immediately after the object disappeared, we did see what probably was a B-47 at high altitude, but it bore no relation at all to the object we saw.

Another fact is that the time of our observation was nearly an hour after 2 a.m., which would eliminate the 8th Air Force operation, Big Blast, since as you say this took place between midnight and 2 a.m. Norman Muscarello, who first reported this object before we went to the sight saw it somewhere in the vicinity of 2 a.m., but nearly an hour had passed before he got into the police station, and we went out to the location with him.

We would both appreciate it very much if you would help us eliminate the possible conclusion that some people have made in that we might have (a) made up the story, or (b) were incompetent observers. Anything you could do along this line would be very much appreciated, and I'm sure you can understand the position we're in.

We appreciate the problems the Air Force must have with a lot of irresponsible reports on this subject, and don't want to cause you any unnecessary trouble. On the other hand, we think you probably understand our position.

Thanks very much for your interest.

Sincerely,

EUGENE BERTRAND, *Patrolman.*
DAVID HUNT, *Patrolman.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
HEADQUARTERS, 8TH AIR FORCE (SAC),
Westover Air Force Base, Mass., November 24, 1965.

Memorandum : DOOTO.

Subject: UFO sighting.

To: AFSC (TDEW/UFO.)

1. In reply to your letter, same subject, November 16, 1965, and telephone conversation between Specialist Master Sergeant Heffley, 8th Air Force, and Sergeant Moody, Headquarters, AFSC, on November 19, 1965, the following information is furnished.

2. Big Blast "Coco," a SAC/NORAD training mission, was flown on September 2-3, 1965. By 03/0430Z, the operational portion of the mission was complete, and participating aircraft were en route to their home stations.

3. Ten B-47 aircraft from Pease AFB were involved in Big Blast "Coco" and were estimated to arrive at their initial approach fix (Pease TACAN 320° radial, 10 DME fix), between 03/0444Z and 03/0535Z. The town of Exeter is within the traffic pattern utilized by air traffic control in the recovery of these aircraft at Pease AFB, N.H. During their approach the recovering aircraft would have been displaying standard position lights, anticollision lights, and possibly over wing and landing lights.

For the commander.

WILLIAM A. MCGILPIN, Jr.,
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force.,
Directorate of Operations.

Mr. EUGENE F. BERTRAND, Jr.,
Mr. DAVID R. HUNT,
Exeter Police Department, Exeter, N.H.

GENTLEMEN: The sighting of various unidentified objects by you and Mr. Norman Mascarello was investigated by officials from Pease Air Force Base, N.H., and their report has been forwarded to our office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This sighting at Exeter, N.H., on the night of September 2 has been given considerable publicity through various news releases and in magazine articles similar to that from the Saturday Review of October 2, 1965. A portion of this article is attached for your information. This information was released by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a private organization which has no connection with the Government. As a result of these articles, the Air Force has received inquiry as to the cause of this report.

Our investigation and evaluation of this sighting indicates a possible association with an 8th Air Force operation, "Big Blast." In addition to aircraft from this operation, there were five B-47 type aircraft flying in the area during this period. Before a final evaluation of your sighting can be made, it is essential for us to know if either of you witnessed any aircraft in the area during this time period either independently or in connection with the objects observed. Since there were many aircraft in the area, at that time, and there were no reports of unidentified objects from personnel engaged in this air operation, we might then assume that the objects observed between midnight and 2 a.m. might be associated with this military air operation. If, however, these aircraft were noted by either of you, then this would tend to eliminate this air operation as a plausible explanation for the objects observed.

Sincerely,

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr.,
Major, USAF, Chief, Project Blue Book.

NOVEMBER 16, 1965.

Memo: TDEW/UFO.
Subject: UFO sighting.
To: Hq 8th Air Force.

1. A report of an unidentified flying object was submitted to our office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base by the 817 Combat Support Group, Pease Air Force Base. This report was submitted to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in accordance with AFR 200-2. Evaluation of information submitted indicates that the observation may be associated with the military operation, Big Blast. The location of the observation was the New Hampshire area, in and around the town of Exeter. Time of the reported UFO was the night of August 2-3, 1965, and specifically 03/0500 to 0600 Zebra. This UFO report has received considerable publicity in newspaper and magazine articles, and the Air Force has received numerous queries regarding the cause of this sighting.

2. We would like to know the specific types of aircraft used in this operation and possible location of these aircraft at the time of the report.

For the commander.

ERIC T. DE JONCKMERE,
*Colonel, U.S. Air Force,
Deputy for Technology and Subsystems.*

NICAP MASSACHUSETTS INVESTIGATING SUBCOMMITTEE,
Wenham, Mass., February 10, 1966.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
*Office of the Secretary,
U.S. Air Force,
Washington, D.C.*

(Attention: John P. Spaulding, Lieutenant colonel, U.S. Air Force, Chief, Civil Branch, Community Relations Division, Office of Information).

DEAR COLONEL SPAULDING: Thank you for your correspondence of January 25, 1966, in response to my letter of November 24, 1965, regarding my inquiry concerning the September 3, 1965, UFO sightings in Exeter, N.H. I appreciate your letter and the attached backup information concerning which I would make the following comments.

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 night-time 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

not overly populated but certainly not completely sparse. Why would they be the only four people to see this? This is a problem we are 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

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. HYNEK. 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 hardwares. 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."

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."

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 "SHOOTS" 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 cavorting 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 Clements, 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.

However, the two persons who reportedly were closest to the object, Frank Mannor, 47 years old, and his son, Ronald, 19, said it did not appear to touch the ground but sat on a base of fog.

Frederick E. Davids, State police commissioner, who is also head of civil defense for Michigan, opened an investigation.

"I used to discount these reports too, but now I'm not so sure," he said.

Mr. Mannor and his son said they had run to within 500 yards of the object. Mr. Mannor said the craft was shaped like a football and was about the length of a car with a grayish yellow hue and a pitted surface like coral rock.

"It had a blue light on one end and a white light on the other," he said.

"They were pulsating and each of them looked like they had a little halo around it," he said.

Other witnesses saw only the lights, but their descriptions, including those of policemen, agreed closely.

Stanley McFadden, Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy, said he and Deputy David Fitzpatrick watched the object fly over their car about the same time the Mannors reported it had taken off.

Officer Hunawill said four other unidentified flying objects had hovered in a quarter circle over the object in the swamp.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 23, 1966]

FIRST UFO'S OF SEASON ARE SIGHTED

Spring's first flying saucers have sprouted right alongside the forsythia. Scores of people in Michigan have reported strange flying objects since the weekend, and a former fighter pilot says he saw several over his Bethesda home Saturday night.

The Air Force, which has investigated more than 10,000 such reports since 1947, sent Northwestern University's Dr. H. Allen Hynek, its top scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects (UFO's), to look into the Michigan reports.

The latest was Monday night at Hillsdale College, where a county civil defense director, a former reporter and assistant dean, and 87 coeds say they watched a glowing object zipping around campus for 4 hours.

This report coincided with one near Ann Arbor, where about 50 persons—including 12 policemen—said they saw an eerie object cruise over a swamp Sunday night while four sister ships hovered overhead.

In Bethesda, retired Air Force Col. Howard T. Wright, of 5119 Newport Avenue, said he and five other persons saw several objects outside his home and they were "definitely not in my imagination, nor were they satellites or airplanes."

[From the New York Times, Mar. 23, 1966]

EIGHTY-SEVEN MICHIGAN COEDS AND OFFICIAL SIGHT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT

HILLSDALE, MICH., March 22 (UPI).—A civil defense director, an assistant dean and 87 coeds reported a glowing object fly past a college dormitory and hover in a swamp for hours.

Their description of the object seen here last night tallied closely with that of one seen by more than 50 persons, including 12 policemen, near Ann Arbor, Mich., the previous night.

The Air Force dispatched its top scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects to begin an investigation.

The witnesses said they watched from the second floor of a Hillsdale College dormitory as the object wobbled, wavered, glowed, and once flew right at a dormitory window before stopping suddenly.

Mrs. Kelly Hearn, for 7 years a newspaper reporter before becoming assistant dean of women, assistant professor of English and housemother of the dormitory, had the coeds take notes as they watched the object for 4 hours.

They and William Van Horn, 41, Hillsdale County civil defense director, said the object dimmed its lights when police cars approached, brightened again when they went away, and dodged an airport beacon light.

Barbara Kohn, 21, of New Castle, Pa., and Cynthia Poffenberger, 18, of Cleveland were the first to see the object. They described its shape as roughly

that of a football. This was roughly the same description given by a man and his son who reported that they saw an eerie object land in a swamp Sunday night 45 miles northeast of here near Ann Arbor.

The Air Force announced it was bringing in Dr. H. Allen Hynek, chairman of Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's Project Blue Book program to track down the reports of unidentified flying objects.

Dr. Hynek set up his headquarters at Selfridge Air Force Base, Mount Clemens, Mich., near the southern Michigan section where the objects have been reported several times lately.

"It was definitely some kind of vehicle," Mr. Van Horn said. "Through the glasses [binoculars] it was either round or long."

The object's shape was briefly outlined by lightning as it veered over and near the dormitory before retreating into the swamp, Miss Kohn said. It stayed there for 4 hours before vanishing, witnesses said.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 29, 1966]

TRUTH ABOUT FLYING OBJECTS HIDDEN BY AIR FORCE, FAITHFUL SAY

(By Howard Simons, Washington Post Staff Writer)

Firm believers that unidentified flying objects are for real and from a far-off super-civilization met the press yesterday amid a torrent of reports about new objects being sighted everywhere in the United States.

The believers repeatedly charged the Air Force with deliberately hiding the truth, which if it were known "would bring forth one of the greatest stories of the century."

The believers also "fully backed" Representative Gerald Ford, Republican, of Michigan, who wants a congressional investigation of unidentified objects which have lately plagued his home State.

But most of all, the believers want to be believed and loved.

"We want the Air Force merely to end its secrecy on sightings and stop ridiculing competent witnesses," said retired Marine Corps Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, a UFO skeptic until his conversion.

Keyhoe now is director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, an organization whose major aims are to evaluate all UFO sightings; get the Air Force to own up to the truth and to expose UFO charlatans who keep seeing "little green men."

Keyhoe and his colleagues, including scientists, engineers, military personnel, and pilots, scorn the thought of "little green men."

Had a visitor from afar ever set foot on the earth? the serious students of UFO's were asked.

There was only one case suggesting so, said committee staff member and former Newsman Donald Berliner. It happened in April 1964 near Socorro, N. Mex., where police officers saw two small suited occupants get out of a UFO.

"They were small and suited," noted a reporter. "How could you be sure they were not green?"

"We have no reason to believe they were green," wryly quipped Berliner.

The committee's case for believing that UFO's are for real was put to the press by Keyhoe. It amounted to an argument that thousands of competent persons—including radar controllers, qualified pilots, and missile trackers—had sighted objects; roughly 100,000 persons in all.

The Air Force, which has been investigating UFO reports since 1948, has steadfastly maintained there is no evidence any flying object has come from somewhere else in the universe.

Keyhoe's view, shared by the committee's board of governors, is radically different. The committee concludes, Keyhoe said yesterday, that "these things are real and must be extraterrestrial because they are so superior to anything we have."

According to Keyhoe, UFO's have been observing the earth for 200 years. He gave two reasons, essentially, for why no contact has been made with whoever it is that pilots the UFO's.

One reason is that the Air Force has orders to scare the UFO's away.

A second reason is that until humans demonstrated the atomic bomb and space flight the UFO people regarded earth as too primitive a society to bother with other than for surveillance purposes.

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 17, 1966]

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"—AIR FORCE EXPLAININGS-AWAY OF UFO'S DEEPENS MYSTERY

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series about UFO's (unidentified flying objects) by Bulkley S. Griffin, executive editor of the Evening Express Washington Bureau. He wrote the stories after visiting the UFO office of the U.S. Air Force.)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Air Force handling of the unidentified flying objects (UFO's) continues to be something of a mystery. Its persistent endeavors to explain all the UFO sightings as misidentification of ordinary objects, such as stars and balloons, has become so conspicuous as to raise questionings in the minds of a growing number of citizens. Some of these explanations seem to run counter to both logic and commonsense. Running along with these explainings-away is an apparent Air Force lack of enthusiasm—especially at high levels—to do a thorough job of investigating sightings.

Headquarters of the Air Force investigation and conclusions on unidentified flying objects—they call the enterprise Project Blue Book—is at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. In charge of Project Blue Book is Maj. Hector Quintanilla.

Recently this writer has made two more visits to Wright-Patterson to study the files of Project Blue Book and to talk with Major Quintanilla, the architect of the military's final public verdicts on the UFO's.

A multitude of UFO sightings in the last dozen months has kept the Air Force busy trying to explain-away and has rendered the public more conscious and curious than ever about these strange, usually lighted, objects in the sky. The Air Force and the burdened Project Blue Book have often resorted to the expedient of lumping a number of sightings together—not naming any particular one—and furnishing a generalized catchall explanation.

This is what it did respecting an extraordinary number of sightings in the Southwest around the beginning of last August. The very number of the UFO's and of the sighters of them shook some public confidence thereabouts in both the Air Force's knowledge of the subject and in the good faith of its explainings-away.

Extracts from dispatches sent out at that time by the two national wire services will refresh memories and provide a good idea of the magnitude of the UFO performance. On Tuesday, August 3, the New York Times and other newspapers carried an Associated Press dispatch from Oklahoma City, dated August 2. It began:

"Authorities in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas were deluged last night and early today (August 2) by reports of unidentified objects seen flying in the sky.

"The Sedgwick County sheriff's office at Wichita, Kans., said the Weather Bureau had tracked several of them at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 feet.

"The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said that Tinker Air Force Base here (Oklahoma City) had tracked four of the unidentified flying objects on its radar screen at one time, estimating their altitude at about 22,000 feet. A Tinker spokesman refused to confirm or deny the reports of radar observations."

"Reports poured in" from 21 cities and towns, continued the Associated Press dispatch. The 21 are named: 7 are listed in Texas, 3 in New Mexico, 5 in Oklahoma, and 6 in Kansas.

The United Press International, in a dispatch in the evening of August 2, named eight States. "Reports of sightings by eye poured in from Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Oklahomans probably saw the most."

In a dispatch from Oklahoma City dated August 4, the United Press International declared that "thousands of persons across the Nation's midlands and Southwest again last night reported seeing mysterious flashing, winking, and sparkling phenomena that sped and sometimes zigzagged across the skies.

"The Air Force contends most of the sightings were probably stars or planets. It was the fourth consecutive night of UFO sightings. A lot of people took issue with the Air Force's claim that they were stars or planets."

It can be mentioned in passing that radar does not pick up stars or planets. In one United Press International dispatch it is stated that "Oklahomans probably saw the most" of these sightings. The Oklahoma sightings therefore provide

an illuminating example of how the Air Force deals with the public in such a situation.

By good fortune, one does not have to rely mainly on newspaper reports, sometimes meager, or upon the Air Force statements. The Department of Public Safety of the State of Oklahoma has sent to the office of Congressman John Jarman, Democrat, of the Oklahoma City congressional district, and to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in Washington a summary of the teletype reports sent into the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Communications Network Center, July 31-August 5, from the various highway patrol headquarters over the State.

This valuable document, which was not observed in the files of Project Blue Book, will be utilized in one or more following articles dealing with the curious behavior of the Air Force touching the UFO's and the public.

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 18, 1966]

THOSE FLYING SAUCERS—HIGHWAY PATROL REPORT FIRES CONTROVERSY OVER UFO's

(Editor's note: This is the second of a series about UFO's (unidentified flying objects) by Bulkley S. Griffin, executive editor of the Evening Express Washington Bureau. He wrote the stories after visiting the UFO office of the U.S. Air Force.)

(By Bulkley Griffin)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Research into the matter of the unidentified flying objects (UFO's), the U.S. Air Force, and the public, receives substantial help from a report furnished by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. This summarizes the messages dealing with UFO sightings that passed over the Oklahoma Highway Patrol network in the period July 31-August 5.

A survey of this information reveals the large number of sightings and the much larger number of witnesses of those sightings, and lists some radar sightings by the Air Force. It compares with a generalized attention to those sightings by the Air Force and Project Blue Book, the latter the name for the Air Force investigation of UFO's.

At 3:30 p.m. August 2, Project Blue Book issued a statement assuming to explain the avalanche of UFO sightings that had hit the Southwest—but probably had hit Oklahoma the heaviest—starting July 31.

Therefore, this article will seek to hit the high points of the sightings reported on the Oklahoma Highway Patrol network beginning with July 31, up to the issuance of the Project Blue Book explanation.

The first report on the teletype came the early morning of July 31. A Wynnewood, Okla., police officer, Louis Sikes, reported a UFO. The radar at Tinker Air Force Base located the object. A little later, continued the highway patrol report, "Caswell Air Force Base (Fort Worth, Tex.) aimed their radar at the same location and came up with the same fix as Tinker." Both Tinker and Caswell followed the object, which once disappeared and then reappeared, for some time. Later that day an Associated Press dispatch from Oklahoma City stated flatly that Tinker and Caswell both had the UFO on radar.

The next night saw the UFO reports crowding the highway patrol teletype. Some quotations of messages will be given.

At 9:10 p.m. the highway patrol tower sent out this message: "Since 8 p.m. the tower has received in the neighborhood of 25 to 30 visual sightings, many by police officers and highway patrol troopers of various unidentified flying objects from the Purcell area north through the Norman area to Chandler and back through Meeker and Shawnee.

"Three Shawnee officers and their captain have four of the objects in sight at this time, also another has cropped up from the south of Tecumseh and is apparently going to fly directly over Shawnee.

"The sightings vary from one to four of the objects at various times starting in a reddish color and varying to a white and blue luster.

"Shawnee reports the objects seem to be flying four to a formation in a diamond-type formation. Cushing has reported four of the objects. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Units 30 and 40 have also made visual sightings. Reports have

come from (three) individuals." Names of two civilians are given; third was a police officer from Tulsa, not named.

"Tinker Air Force Base has had from one to four of them on radar at a time, and they advise they are flying very high, at approximately 22,000 feet, which seems to coincide with the visual sightings, all of which are 'very high flying objects.'"

Other reports came in the night of August 1. The sheriff's office at Chandler reported two UFO's. Two individuals—names given—spotted a UFO between Norman and Purcell. "Tinker AFB looking at it—or attempting to do so at this time with radar—Wichita Falls, Tex., also notified to look." Another UFO was seen near Forgan, and sighter's name and address given.

"Although there were numerous other reports from other sources which did not reach the patrol, those above were all of the reports which moved on the highway patrol wire on August 1," it is stated in the summary from the department of public safety. On August 2, the teletype carried its first UFO report of that day at 2 p.m. regarding a sighting at 12:50 p.m. near Cushing. Other reports followed through the afternoon and night.

All this from just one State's highway patrol teletype.

At 8:30 p.m. on August 2, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, in charge of Project Blue Book, issued the following statement:

"Initial study of the reports thus far received by the Air Force indicates that the observations were astronomical in nature. The objects most likely observed were the planet Jupiter and the stars Rigel, Capella, Betelgeux, or Al-debaran, which are clearly visible in the eastern sky. The time of reported sightings, the azimuth and elevation of the reported sightings supports this conclusion. In addition, on August 1 and 2 the temperature distribution and varying wind speeds observed over the Great Plains, from northern Texas to Wyoming were favorable for the phenomenon, known as scintillation. Some of the reports were the aquarid meteor showers which occur between July 26 to August 6. The meteors approach from the southeast and streak swiftly across the sky trailing sparks. There has been no confirmation that any of the sightings reported were tracked on radar.

This official statement presents two characteristics typical of Air Force treatment of UFO reports. First, no specific sighting is mentioned, and just about every conceivable reason for seeking to explain away the multitude of sightings over eight States is included.

Second, no radar sighting is admitted. This is despite the highway patrol's report of Tinker and Carswell Air Force Bases having a fix on a July 31 object, and Tinker having a fix on up to four objects the night of August 1-2; and despite national wire services reports of these radar sightings and of a Wichita weather station radar sighting of several UFO's.

Radar does not pick up stars and planets, as has been stated. Further, corroboration of visual sightings by a radar sighting—as the Oklahoma Highway Patrol indicated on one occasion the night of August 1—would strengthen the argument that some UFO's are real and unknown.

But that August 2 statement from Project Blue Book was immediately attacked from a different angle by Director Robert Risser of the Oklahoma Science and Art Foundation Planetarium in Oklahoma City. To quote a UPI dispatch:

"That (Project Blue Book statement) is as far from the truth as you can get," Risser said. "Somebody has made a mistake. These stars and planets are one the opposite side of the earth from Oklahoma City at this time of year."

Major Quintanilla, recently asked about the comment of Director Risser, pointed out the UFO reports were coming in from several States, and said his August 2 announcement referred to Wyoming where the stars in question were visible. He added the statement applied to Oklahoma between 1 and 4 in the morning.

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 19, 1966]

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"—NEW HAMPSHIRE SIGHTING ONE OF MOST FRIGHTENING

(Editor's Note: This is the third of a series about UFO's (unidentified flying objects) by Bulkley S. Griffin, executive editor of the Evening Express, Washington bureau.)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—One of the more impressive sightings of an unidentified flying object (UFO) occurred near Exeter, N.H., last September. As narrated, it was an extended closeup observation of a lighted object that was noiseless and

close to the ground. Several persons apparently observed it, three of them, including two policemen, at one time.

The conclusion of Project Blue Book—the name of the Air Force UFO probe that announces the final verdicts on sightings—that the New Hampshire watchers saw low-flying airplanes, is of a piece with many other Air Force attempted explanations away. It doesn't make sense.

The New Hampshire sighting is of significance on another ground. It involves the reported effect of a UFO in disturbing and exciting animals.

The sequence of events near Exeter began at 1 o'clock in the morning of last September 3 when Exeter Police Officer Eugene P. Bertrand, Jr., 30, cruising in his police car, came upon an auto drawn up by the side of the road and in it an hysterical woman, who according to the officer's report to the investigative officer from Pease Air Force Base, N.H., "stated she was too upset to drive." She stated a light had been following her and had stopped over her car." The officer stayed with her about 15 minutes, sought to reassure her, saw nothing, and departed for the police station.

There he found Norman J. Muscarello, 18, of Exeter who had come to the station to tell of his experience while a few miles out of Exeter. He said something big with dazzling, flashing red lights had appeared moving just above the treetops. It had moved rather slowly toward him. He had jumped into the ditch for safety. Then the thing had disappeared.

Officer Bertrand took Muscarello with him in his patrol car and they returned to the field where Muscarello had had his alarming experience. They both got out of the car and walked into the field, Bertrand having a flashlight. At this point Officer Bertrand's report to an examining officer at Pease AFB can be taken up.

"When we had gone about 50 feet a group of five bright red lights came from behind a group of trees near us. They were extremely bright and flashed one at a time.

"At one time they came so close I fell to the ground and started to draw my gun. The lights were so bright I was unable to make out any form.

"There was no sound or vibration but the farm animals were upset in the area and making a lot of noise. When the lights started coming near us again Muscarello and I ran for the car. * * *

"I radioed Patrolman David Hunt who arrived in a few minutes. He also observed the lights which were still over the field at an estimated altitude of 100 feet and finally disappeared in the distance at the same altitude. The lights were always in line at about 60° angle. When the object moved the lower lights were always forward of the others."

In this case the Air Force, which generally appears to hang back from much investigating of UFO reports, did do some investigating. It interviewed the sighters and neighbors.

The Pease AFB officer, who headed this local military probe and who, by the way, was a command pilot, made this finding:

"At this time have been unable to arrive at a probable cause of this sighting. The three observers seem to be stable, reliable persons, especially the two patrolmen. I viewed the area of the sighting and found nothing in the area that could be the probable cause. Pease AFB had five B-47 aircraft flying in the area during this period but do not believe they had any connection with this sighting."

However, Project Blue Book lists low-flying airplanes as probably responsible for this Exeter sighting. Maj. Hector Quintanilla, in charge of Blue Book, states that the 8th Air Force SAC (Strategic Air Command) group at Westover Air Force Base, Mass., was conducting a low-level operation, called Big Blast, at the time. He said he believes the Exeter "people were looking at low-level aircraft."

The effect of a UFO on animals had been reported in a New York State case about 2 weeks before the Exeter event. An investigating officer from the Niagara Falls Air Force Base, commenting on the sighting of a low-down UFO near Cherry Creek, N.Y., on August 19, said:

"Preliminary analysis reveals object not explainable in conventional terms. Object caused reduction in farm cows' milk from 2½ cans to 1 can. Disturbed bull in field. Caused dog to bark." This sighting, by the way, is one of the very few that Project Blue Book has marked "Unidentified."

The Exeter UFO produced a fairly familiar charge; namely that the Air Force sought to suppress news of the sighting. In this instance the charge came from Raymond Fowler, of Wenham, Mass., head of a local area NIOAP

group, who went to the scene to investigate for NICAP. The latter stands for National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, the unofficial but responsible Washington organization. The Fowler charges are in the files of Blue Book and of NICAP.

Fowler talked with witnesses and others and said he was told that Pease AFB officers had asked the police and a local newspaper correspondent not to mention the sightings. The request was put to the police on the ground people would be alarmed if told the facts, it is stated.

Major Quintanilla, informed of this charge, said that "I would not allow any suppression of news." However, it is an impression in Washington that officers a good deal higher than Major Quintanilla would not exert themselves to prevent news suppression of UFO sightings.

The Haverhill (Mass.) Gazette wrote an editorial on this UFO in the neighborhood, in which it said: "So many have reported seeing it (the Exeter UFO) and their descriptions jibe so closely that, unless they have banded together in one large hoax, their stories must be given credence."

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 20, 1966]

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"—AIR FORCE BRUSHES OFF FLOOD OF SIGHTINGS IN SOUTHWEST

(Editor's note: This is the fourth of a series about UFO's (unidentified flying objects) by Bulkley S. Griffin, executive editor of the Evening Express, Washington bureau.)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A good 2 weeks after the flood of unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings last August over Oklahoma and other Southwestern States, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, produced its formal survey and judgment. It sent this several-page explanation of sightings in its wide area to Project Blue Book, the Air Force office in charge of the UFO investigations and conclusions.

This report is a good example of Air Force anti-UFO propaganda. Except for mention of one specific sighting—which was decreed to be a weather balloon—the report is generalized, pulling out all the stops on the possibilities of citizens making mistakes and including a statement from the official of a planetarium in Oklahoma City whose text was that "the average person is uneducated as to what the sky normally looks like."

Interviews with military experts are given which mention unusually bright stars at this time of year, a haze that reflects things from the ground, the frequency of weather balloons and so on.

An impressive but superficial case is made for weather balloons as fooling people into thinking they are seeing a UFO. The number released daily in the Oklahoma area is considerable.

But the fact is that the citizens thereabouts have lived with these balloons day after day and year after year and by now must be fairly well acquainted with what they look like and how they act. They are also pretty well acquainted with stars, which at the moment may be supplanting balloons as the favorite explanation put forth by Project Blue Book.

The Tinker AFB report did not need to avoid mention of particular sightings. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol teletype reported a number of sightings well worth investigation and these teletype UFO reports were relayed to all major newspapers, wire services and TV and radio stations across the State of Oklahoma; also to the weather wire teletype system. They were available to sincere Air Force investigators.

The failure to interview witnesses could be termed negative Air Force propaganda. The highway patrol messages named close to a dozen civilian witnesses usually with addresses, and the number of highway patrol officers that had sightings must have totaled two dozen and more. Yet the formal August 20 report from Tinker shows interviews with but two civilians and two police officers.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla, in command of Project Blue Book, says the Air Force seeks interviews with persons who call up and whose names they learn. "We are not interested in persons who go to the newspapers or to radio and TV stations," he said. The wisdom of this exclusion is of course wide open to question—assuming that the Air Force is seeking information.

But Tinker AFB itself must have received dozens of calls during the heavy sighting period of July 31 through August 5. This much is indicated by a sentence sent out over the highway patrol network the night of August 2. "The security officer at Tinker Field reports he has been swamped with calls the past hour from people reporting UFO's." This report refers to just 1 hour of the several-day sighting period.

Chances are, it is said, that the Air Force handling of the UFO problem may be allowed to drag along by an apathetic public. Yet one may speculate on what an honest and energetic investigation might do. For one thing, it would investigate some of the sightings reported by the Oklahoma highway patrol.

For instance, take this report that moved with many others, over the teletype August 4. "Twenty-five people at a church in Cushing, Okla., all watched several UFO's. Sometimes they would stay stationary, then would move at a high rate of speed. Were moving south for a while, then stopped and stood still for some time, then were joined by two and moved to the west at high speeds, then turned and traveled east for a while, then stopped completely and stood still, then went east and suddenly disappeared from sight. The first ones were orange lights, the ones that joined them had red and green lights like airplanes. PD (police department) Cushing also observed the same things."

Or the "approximately 30 calls" to the Shawnee Police Department reporting 4 or 5 lighted objects traveling northwest which "make no conventional noise such as an aircraft does but rather make a humming noise." Or what did the five citizens of Norman, Okla., see looking at a white globe 30-40 feet in diameter through a "tripod-mounted 160-power telescope."

The evidence is convincing that the Air Force—for reasons it doesn't announce—is not really trying to discover what the UFO's are. Or, if the Air Force already knows, it is painstakingly keeping its information from the public. Chief blame for this lack of action must rest on the Government.

But another culprit, the scientific community, must bear blame according to an August article by Robert C. Cowen, natural science editor of the Christian Science Monitor. He wrote in part:

"The main reason there has been no scientific study of the (UFO) puzzle is social pressure within the scientific community. It has not been due to lack of opportunity to gather data.

"Many scientists feel the whole subject is 'kooky.' They dismiss it with ridicule. It can be personally embarrassing, even detrimental to a scientist's career, to try to take the saucer problem seriously."

It is time to investigate; scientific knowledge of some sort resides in the UFO phenomenon, said the writer.

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 21, 1966]

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"—WHAT SHERIFFS SAW WASN'T STAR, UFO PROBER ADMITS

(Editor's note: This is the fifth of a series about UFO's (unidentified flying objects) by Bulkley S. Griffin, executive editor of the Evening Express, Washington bureau)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The case of the two Texas deputy sheriffs whose patrol car was allegedly followed by an unidentified flying object (UFO) so that they hit 110 miles an hour in rushing away, is worth mentioning for its own sake in any study of the Air Force-UFO confrontation.

The case also illustrates the possibility of a more realistic trend in Project Blue Book—which is the name of the Air Force's investigation of UFO's.

Project Blue Book first listed the Texas sighting as, "Refraction of Star Antares distorted due to inversion." This verdict was a highly improbable one from the start, as will be seen from the testimony of the two deputy sheriffs. Recently, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, in command of Project Blue Book, stated he has withdrawn this conclusion after talking over the phone with Deputy Sheriff McCoy. The star verdict didn't seem to fit. So Blue Book now records the sighting as one of the very few unexplained ones on its rolls.

Another recent case of reconsideration of a verdict occurred in the instance of the four lighted objects seen together by many observers the night of August 1-2, according to the teletype reports of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The latter

said Tinker AFB had picked them up. But Blue Book had this sighting listed as "Astro (Antares)." Radar does not pick up stars, as previously noted.

Recently, however, as this writer was discussing this sighting at the headquarters of Project Blue Book and pointed out that a Tinker AFB radar squadron sergeant had referred to two stationary objects and two moving in the formation, Project Blue Book proposed that the two stationary objects were stars—the brightest of them Antares—and the two alleged to be moving could be airplanes.

The two cases, one in Oklahoma and one in Texas, suggest to some observers that Project Blue Book, while vigorously trying to explain away has of late occasionally sought to throw a little more credibility into its investigations and conclusions.

But to get to the two Texas deputy sheriffs, who, as it came about, were followed by a UFO the same night—September 3—on which at least one person in the Exeter, N.H., case reported being followed.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Billy F. McCoy and Deputy Sheriff Robert W. Goode were on routine patrol near Damon, Tex.—which is around 40 miles south-east of Houston—when they saw a bright purple light, which soon produced a smaller blue light, on the horizon about 5 miles away. One of the officers studied the lights through binoculars. They had slowed down off the edge of the highway when the lights started rapidly toward them.

The testimony of Chief Deputy Sheriff McCoy, as given to an investigating officer from Ellington AFB, Tex., continues:

"The object came up to the pasture next the highway about 150 feet off the highway and about 100 feet high. The bulk of the object was plainly visible and appeared to be triangular shaped with a bright purple light on the left and the smaller, less bright, blue light on the right end. The bulk of the object appeared to be dark gray in color with no other distinguishing features. It appeared to be about 200 feet wide and 40-50 feet thick in the middle tapering off toward both ends. There was no noise or any trail.

"The bright purple light illuminated the ground directly underneath it and the area in front of it, including the highway and the interior of our patrol car. The tall grass under the object did not appear to be disturbed.

"There was a bright moon out and it cast a shadow of the object on the ground immediately below it in the grass. Deputy Sheriff Goode was in the driver's seat with his left arm lying in the open window. Although he was wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a coat, he later said that he felt the heat apparently emanating from the object."

The officers rushed away toward Damon "as fast as we could go" traveling "at speeds up to 110 miles an hour," said McCoy. Arrived in Damon, they discussed the matter. "We were both scared but still wanted to find out what it was." So they returned to the scene and saw the UFO on the horizon acting exactly as it had before. "We decided to leave the area because we figured that the object would start coming toward us again," stated McCoy.

The report to Blue Book of the investigating officer from Ellington Air Force Base believes the two deputy sheriffs definitely saw "some unusual object." This report reads in part:

"After talking with both officers involved in the sighting there is no doubt in my mind that they definitely saw some unusual object or phenomenon. However, my investigation failed to uncover any facts that permitted me, with my meager knowledge of such things, to arrive at any explanation for the unusual sighting.

"Both officers appeared to be intelligent, mature, levelheaded persons capable of sound judgment and reasoning. Chief Deputy Sheriff McCoy hold a responsible position in the department requiring the supervision over 42 personnel. Both officers have been subjected to considerable friendly ridicule from their contemporaries and the local townspeople; but have continued to profess the facts of their sighting * * *"

[From the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, Jan. 22, 1966]

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"—EVIDENCE INDICATES AIR FORCE MISLEADING PUBLIC ON UFO's

(By Bulkley Griffin (last of six articles))

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This is the final one of half a dozen articles on the unidentified flying objects (UFO's), the U.S. Air Force, which has the official job

of investigating the sightings, and the public. The conclusions reached have been assisted by two more examinations of the files of Project Blue Book, the Air Force name for its study and its verdicts on UFO reports.

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 misidentifications of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft.

The logical assumption, backed by much circumstantial evidence, is that the Air Force is deliberately misleading the public.

In this campaign the Air Force, backed by normal public respect for the military and for authoritative statements, and also assisted by the natural human disinclination to think uncommonly or to be laughed at, has been largely successful.

However, the Air Force success in having the public believe what it wants it to believe respecting UFO's is steadily and conspicuously lessening. More and more skepticism is being voiced in newspapers and by citizens.

Another chief conclusion is this: no energetic and thorough effort to investigate the unidentified flying object phenomenon is being made by the Air Force or ever has been made by it. And this charge holds true respect any other Government agency and respecting what has been termed the Nation's scientific community.

Reasons for the persevering Air Force performance are unknown to the public. In the speculation one of the following three reasons is commonly advanced: the Air Force fears national panic if the truth about the UFO's were told; the Air Force feels it is stuck with its story; or the Air Force is silenced by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The first alleged reason, however uncomplimentary to the intelligence of our citizens, is one that has been heard at the Capitol off and on for approaching 20 years. Some speculate it may be the reason the Air Force has given to the chairmen of the two congressional space committees in its understood endeavor to hold off a congressional investigation of the UFO subject.

What is the truth about the UFO's? It is quite possible that no one on this earth knows.

A veteran New England congressional leader, who was in a position to know, told this writer that the Air Force didn't know what they are. Officials of the Central Intelligence Agency ought to know if anyone does, yet a former head of the CIA, Adm. R. H. Hillenkotter, affirmed half a dozen years ago that he did not believe in the Air Force explainings-away; but he did not indicate he thought he thought he knows the truth of the matter.

An increasing number of good observers hold that a sizable minority of the sightings—many sightings presumably are misidentifications—represent something new and unknown. A large number of these observers, who include veteran pilots, radar operators, air traffic controllers, teachers, astronomers, and other experts, hold that the unknown UFO's are extraterrestrial.

To all this Air Force officials can and do respond that not a single tangible bit of evidence of any such UFO has been found. This is a mighty strong argument, the strongest argument of the so-called explainers-away.

Yet to an augmenting number of competent observers the evidence grows stronger that some of the UFO's are real and really unknown. So very many impressive sightings can't be explained away, it is said.

"From the United States, from Argentina, Uruguay, Portugal, France, Antarctica, and Australia (from four continents) have come the rash of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). The sightings have been the most numerous since 1957." So summarized a United Press International dispatch last August.

First and last, few presumably will challenge a conclusion that the mystery and the problem of the unidentified flying object remain with this world.

And as for the Air Force, with its intensive campaign to explain away every UFO sighting, it might listen to the recent advice of a veteran astronomer, Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of the Fels Planetarium, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, said:

"It would be well if our Project Blue Book officials were simply to indicate that sightings in a minority of cases cannot be explained. It would clear the air of a great deal of misunderstanding and mistrust of this group by the intelligent laymen and observers who have seen objects in the sky."

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, January 18, 1966.

HON. L. MENDEL RIVERS,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Recently you requested information in behalf of Mr. John R. Gray about unidentified flying objects (UFO).

The Air Force does not withhold or censor information on UFO's. The results of all Air Force investigations are available to bona fide news representatives and scientific researchers. Press releases are issued as warranted, and an annual report (copy attached) on the project is available to the public. There has never been an order issued by the Secretary of the Air Force to suppress or withhold such information.

The three conclusions set forth in Mr. Gray's letter are, in fact, the conclusions which were reached as a result of a panel of scientific consultants that met at the request of the Government to study the problem in 1953. For your information, the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board has been asked to evaluate the UFO program. An ad hoc committee has been appointed and will convene sometime in February. The results will be available shortly after the meeting.

As a result of investigating over 10,000 reports since 1947, we cannot associate disruption of running engines, radios, and headlights, or malfunction of aircraft instruments, or heat sensations with UFO activity. Nor can we attribute them to aircraft operations. There are many plausible explanations for effects such as car radio static when passing powerlines, overheated car engines, drops in power and voltage in the electrical system, malfunction of equipment, and imagination or panic of an observer. Weather conditions such as temperature inversions can cause known natural or conventional objects to appear to hover, move around, and change colors. Satellites and balloons make no noise while in flight. Balloons can also hover and suddenly accelerate depending on the wind conditions.

The foregoing information also explains our third conclusion. There has never been a top-secret document, entitled "Estimate of the Situation," which concluded that UFO's are interplanetary in nature.

As of December 31, 1965, the Air Force has received 10,060 reports since 1947 of which 646 are unidentified and cannot be explained. It is our opinion that all reports could be explained if more detailed objective data had been available. However, because of the fact that analyses of UFO sightings depend primarily on the personal impressions and interpretations of the observer rather than on accurate scientific data or facts obtained under controlled conditions, positive identification of all sightings is improbable. Information on any UFO report is available to private citizens upon request.

Photographs received in conjunction with UFO reports are evaluated by photo analysis personnel. The objects in such photographs have been evaluated as known natural or conventional objects which have been misinterpreted by the observer. Such photographs are returned to the owner after analysis.

Our Project Blue Book office is located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where all UFO records are kept. All objects which have been picked up or tracked on radar have been identified as flocks of birds, weather phenomena, or reflections from ground targets. Radar scope photography is classified only if it reveals classified defense information.

The joint Army-Navy-Air Force publication 146 deals with UFO's only as a catchall class of sightings that does not fall into a recognized category such as ships, submarines, aircraft, or guided missiles. The purpose of the publication is to provide uniform instructions for the peacetime reporting of what is judged to be vital intelligence sightings. Any person who violates the provisions of the publication may be liable to prosecution thereunder. The purpose of this is to emphasize the necessity for handling of such information within official channels only.

The article appearing in the December 24, 1959, issue of TIG Brief, entitled "UFO's Serious Business," has been misinterpreted. The purpose of this article was simply to improve the quality of reports and investigative procedures. It also contained guidelines for effective reporting and the equipment necessary for investigations. We have no knowledge of any research projects such as those stated by Mr. Gray, nor do we have any information about the Santiago, Chile, incident.

All UFO reports which are submitted to the Air Force are regarded as earnest reports from people who have seen an aerial object which they could not identify. The purpose of our program is to evaluate such reports and to inform the observer of the cause of his sighting.

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena is a private organization which is in no way affiliated with our Government.

It is a pleasure to again be of service to you.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT W. COVELL,
Colonel, USAF,

Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison.

JANUARY 11, 1966.

Hon. L. MENDEL RIVERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR: Thank you for the very prompt reply (Jan. 6, 1966) to my letter of December 29, regarding UFO's. You stated that you may check out my comments with the proper authorities. Knowing in advance essentially what reactions you will receive from these authorities, be they Air Force, Department of Defense, or Congressional Inquiry Division officials, I strongly and respectfully request you withhold acceptance of their statements until you contact Maj. Donald Keyhoe (USMC, retired) or Mr. Richard Hall. These gentlemen, as you are undoubtedly aware, are director and associate director, respectively, of NICAP and can be reached at North 7-9434.

This course of action is most desirable for the ultimate best interest of the American people as it permits both sides of this controversy to be impartially weighed.

NICAP, in the 9 years since its inception, has amassed sufficient factual information, documentation, and evidence to refute any or all Air Force claims. The organization asks only that it be given the opportunity to present this information in open hearings in order to attain its immediate goal of getting to the people the truth about the UFO's, as can be ascertained and officially confirmed; and the best hope of achieving this end is through congressional action.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN R. GRAY,
Huntington Beach, Calif.

DECEMBER 29, 1965.

Hon. L. MENDEL RIVERS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
The House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR: As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, you may be the proper person in the House, to whom I should address this correspondence pertaining to a subject, the scientific aspect of which promises far-reaching implications. A considerable amount of genuine scientific research by private individuals in this field is being thwarted, in part, by a policy of an agency of the U.S. Government through the employment of ridicule and the withholding of pertinent information. It is a field that has been the subject of suppression since 1947 and particularly since 1953 by order of the Secretary of the Air Force.

The subject, of which I write, is that of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) and the Air Force censorship in the handling of legitimate sightings and reports. The publicized conclusions, in part, of the Air Force's 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 disclosed 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.

Other than the close encounters with UFO's reported by airline and military pilots, an element of truth can be conceded in conclusion (1). However, the validity of number (2) must be disputed. Do we possess any aircraft that can:

1. On close proximity to ground vehicles disrupt the running engines, headlights, and radios of those vehicles?

2. On close proximity to conventional aircrafts cause their gyro compasses and direction finders to momentarily malfunction?
3. On close proximity to conventional aircrafts or ground vehicles cause intense heat sensation experienced by their occupants?
4. Hover at any one point at any given time and suddenly accelerate horizontally or vertically out of sight in a matter of 5 to 10 seconds?
5. Execute an abrupt 90° or 180° change of direction while in flight?
6. Make no discernible sound while in flight?
7. Glow brilliantly and change colors?

Such behavior and characteristics have been witnessed by reliable persons and documented enumerable times and are very familiar to the Air Force; in addition to being definitely beyond the scope of our present technology. If conclusion (3) had included the word "proof" instead of "evidence," the probability of truth could also be conceded here. As it stands, the statement is likewise false for the same reasons as the arguments listed against conclusion (2). Since our present state of technology does not permit satisfactory explanations to such behaviors of these objects, what other assumption can a scientific mind make than that their origin is extra terrestrial? It may be recalled that the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, in July-August of 1948 concluded in their top secret document estimate of the situation that UFO's were interplanetary. While top Air Force officials will vehemently deny that such a document ever existed, proof that it does exist and is accessible for examination by interested Members of Congress—but not from the Air Force.

While the Air Force does not publicly admit to the existence of the wealth of documented evidence that has been accumulated since before the appearance of the first airplane, it does admit to possessing at least 663 "unknowns" on the books. Sightings classified as "unknowns" are those well documented by official and unofficial sources but remain unsolved and "unexplainable." Private citizens inquiring into the nature of these unknowns will be told that such is classified information (AFR 200-2 paragraphs 9 and 19). It should be noted, in this respect, that Vice President Humphrey and Senator Birch Bayh were misinformed by the Air Force through the Congressional Inquiry Division to the effect that all of the 663 "unknown" cases were solved. The letter to Senator Bayh was signed by Col. Frederick H. Fahringer.

Dealings with the Air Force concerning information of UFO's have proven to be a one-way proposition—all in and none out. Is it little wonder that only about 10 percent of the citizenry dare risk disparagement for submitting reports that are truly unexplainable? The "lending" of photographic evidence of a sighting by a witness to the Air Force is tantamount to forfeiture. Infrequently, an Air Force "slip-up" occurs in his favor.

The Air Force maintains that there is no censorship of UFO's. Anyone following this subject knows differently. Strong feelings were expressed by three of my acquaintances, all departed in recent years from service in that branch, in verifying that censorship does indeed exist. Two were radar technicians, one of whom was stationed at White Sands in 1949 while the other was assigned to the 776th Radar Squadron at Point Arena, Calif. in 1961-62. The third was a member of Project Blue Book in Alaska during 1961-62.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff regulation JANAP 146, section III, title 18, United States Code 793, threatens imposition of penalties of 1 to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to \$10,000 fine upon any Air Force pilot who reveals an official UFO report. Such harsh punishment would certainly be indicative of the seriousness with which the Air Force regards the UFO's; and all the while the publicized line is "they don't exist." The official position was subsequently revealed when on December 24, 1959, an Air Force Inspector General brief was issued stating that "UFO's are Serious Business" and instructing all investigating officers to be equipped with geiger counters. The degree of seriousness can also be realized when one considers the lengths to which six agencies of the Federal Government are extending themselves in research to uncover the suspected secret of these objects—that of gravity control, or antigravity power. Forty-six such projects of research of varying degrees are currently being subsidized including 33 under Air Force supervision.

While it is understandable that information pertaining to these projects does not necessarily fall into the sphere of the public's "right to know," there is no apparent reason or justification for the continuation of this "blackout" policy regarding UFO's. It matters not whether this policy was instigated by the Air Force or its superior, but it does matter when individual research in this field is

stified; and it matters when the American people are denied the right to know what kind of powers they may be up against. Persistence in this dogmatic attitude will only tend to deteriorate public morale if not the public trust in the Air Force when irrefutable proof of the existence of these objects manifests itself.

Those behind this official "blackout" should be displaying real responsibility to all of us by desisting from the practices of ridiculing sincere witnesses and belittling sightings that defy explanations and at least extend public acknowledgement of some credence to the evidence that abounds. Instituting a policy of dealing honestly, for a change, with the people would prepare the way to a minimum of possible panic (assuming this to be the basic reason for the censorship) upon arrival of that "moment of proof." (Please, excuse the pun.) Consider the contrast of the disrespect shown Americans to the consideration extended the citizens of Argentina and Chile. For example, on August 3, 1965, the radio and TV stations of Santiago, Chile, alerted the populous to view the three luminous discs hovering over the city for some 25 minutes before moving slowly away.

With the hope that we may yet receive such courtesy instead of treatment as children, I respectfully urge that you consider the undertaking of a hearing into this despicable situation. Until this condition is brought out into the open, much of the news media will continue to refrain from giving the UFO's serious consideration they so justly deserve.

All statements made in this letter can be substantiated by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) located at 1536 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. Documented evidence and authentication required to support the assertion that a censorship does in fact exist will be put at the disposal of your committee by NICAP upon request.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN R. GRAY, *Huntington Beach, Calif.*

[From Life magazine, Apr. 1, 1966]

A WELL-WITNESSED "INVASION"—BY SOMETHING

FROM AUSTRALIA TO MICHIGAN, A FLURRY OF EERIE UFO SIGHTINGS

Call them what you will: flying saucers, unidentified flying objects (UFO's), optical illusions, or the first symptoms of the silly season. They are back again—and seen by more people than ever before. Some are greenish and iridescent, like the mystery thing that swooped down over Perth, Australia, several weeks ago. Others are football shaped and aglow with pulsating lights. Last week the manifestations seemed almost to have reached the proportions of an invasion. Near Ann Arbor, Mich., 52 witnesses, including a dozen policemen, saw 5 strange objects hovering over a swamp. The next day a glowing thing floated over a small college in Hillsdale, Mich. and was sighted by 87 students, an assistant dean and the local civil defense director. Whatever the explanation of the peculiar phenomena—seen and described similarly by so many—something surely was in the air.

"IT WASN'T NO HULLABILLUSION," SAID THE FARMER, AND 52 AGREED

(By Paul O'Neill)

DEXTER TOWNSHIP, MICH.—Frank Mannor has never believed in flying saucers. Hasn't any need of them. Wishes he'd never seen one. Frank should have been born in the day of Dan'l Boone. Since he wasn't, he's on the unemployment. Still, he's a happy man. Or was.

He is a husky, grizzled fellow of 47 who has 10 children, a well of water with an outside pump, a solidly build'd privy, a TV set and a battered refrigerator with the coil on top. Four disembodied automobiles rest beside his white, tumble-down, two-story farmhouse in the open country 12 miles northwest of Ann Arbor. They provide parts for his good car. He has an ancient schoolbus for hunting expeditions. He also has six dogs. The dogs started it all. When they began "barkin' and bellerin'" at 8 o'clock that Sunday night, Frank ran outside—even though he was wearing his suit pants—and looked east into swampland from the rise of ground on which the house is built. He saw lights and a faint red glow "like cigarets being smoked."

Frank called his 19-year-old son, Ronnie. Suit pants or not, they started down toward whatever it was. "I thought a meteor had hit, that maybe we could pick up pieces of it," Frank said.

It never for a minute occurred to him that the United States hadn't had a good, mysterious flying saucer manifestation for a coon's age, that it was probably time for a new visitation from the mysterious little men from outer space and that they had decided to use southern Michigan in general and his swamp in particular for the dangdest display of flashing lights and whizzing half-seen objects since Frank Perkins fired a .22 rifle at a New York crow—and hit a fireworks factory—back in 1951.

Frank Mannor soon realized that he and his son were stalking some kind of thing. The ground between his house and the swamp is hummocky, rolling, but the night was clear and moonlit and the glow ahead was plain. "Just like we were hunting deer," Frank said to Ronnie, "Don't talk, we'll sneak up on it."

They jumped a creek, climbed a rise, and there it was, a few hundred yards ahead in the marsh. The thing seemed as long as an automobile, and wore a green light on one end and a white light on the other. Its back was humped and looked grayish- or bluish-brown and was "quilted" or rough "like coral rock," It seemed to be sitting perhaps 8 feet off the ground in a patch of mist. "Like a man in a boat on a misty lake in the morning—you can see the man but can't quite make out the boat."

Suddenly it turned blood red. "Look at that horrible thing, Dad," blurted Ronnie—and the lights instantly went out. Both began running toward it. "I was a-puffin'," said Mannor. "But when we got there it was gone. I hunted for 4 hours but there was no sign or smell of it. I'm glad I didn't have a gun. I'd a shot it and I might have harmed someone."

Back at the house, meantime, Mannor's wife Leona—a woman who wears shapeless slacks and a flannel shirt with the tail out—decided to call the nearby Dexter village police. "We've got an object out here," she said formally, "that looks like what they call a flying saucer. It's got lights on it down in the swamp."

Since the Mannors are on an eight-party line Leona told a great many other people, too, and the word spread like lightning—or the glow from a flying saucer. Cops and deputy sheriffs were soon tumbling out of cars and thrashing off toward the marsh, and the road beyond the house was jammed solid with the cars of gawkers. Most of them were rewarded for their effort. Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor and Patrolman Nolan Lee saw the red glow as they stumbled around in the dark; so did Washtenaw County Deputy Sheriffs Stanley McFadden and David Fitzpatrick. All reported, like Mannor, that the light eventually vanished. But unlike their host, who said, "I never seen it take off," the cops felt it had zipped away over Mannor's house making a sound like "an ambulance."

"I seen it," said McFadden, "but I still don't believe it."

Dexter Patrolman Robert Hinnawill saw a "strange, lighted object" appear over his patrol car as he waited in the road for those who had set out for the swamp. It had red and white lights "which at times had a bluish tinge" and made continuing sweeps over the swamp at a height of 1,000 feet and then, on being joined by three other "objects," flew away. Chief Taylor's 16-year-old son Robert saw one lighted thing at 10:30. It flashed red and white and hurried off to the west.

Ann Arbor, though sharply divided between scoffers and believers the next day, still seemed to feel a unanimous civic pride in the fact that the Air Force had taken cognizance of its lurid phenomenon by dispatching Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory, to weigh the tales of the elect and, no doubt, send a message of gravity and import to the Pentagon. They were even more heartened to hear that Hynek did not instantly announce that Mannor and his fellow bushwhackers had simply seen the University of Michigan's dish-shaped Peach Mountain radio telescope, which stands against the sky beyond the area in which they saw the glowing thing. Hynek, a bearded man who has investigated a hundred other "sightings" for the Air Force in the last two decades, was sure Mannor was too accustomed to the telescope to ever mistake it for anything else.

"I believe the people who made these sightings are entirely honest and sincere," he said. "But I am not willing to guess what they saw." He hedged when asked if he thought the thing might conceivably have been a new "test vehicle" of some sort. "I think I know much more of what is going on than * * *" he began, but then halted and said, "so I don't think I should say anything * * * I'm sure there is some natural explanation for all of this."

Back by Frank Mannor's house the road jammed up with the cars of the expectant; one man scraped away at a violin for an hour in the hope of summoning creatures from outer space and another blinked a light in what he described as a "pi code"—which he believed to be the key to interplanetary understanding. Many came to scoff. Mannor grew more indignant by the hour.

"People are trying to make a fanatic out of me," he complained. "They was still tramping around here at 3 o'clock this morning and look at them now. They say, 'How much money are you going to make off this?' That's crazy. I don't want no money. I didn't want no publicity in the first place. I don't want none now. I'm just a simple fellow. But I seen what I seen and nobody's going to tell me different. That wasn't no old foxfire or hullabillusion. It was an object. Maybe it'll come back if all these people would stay away and we could get a picture and have verification of it. Anybody wants to give me a lie-detector test I'll take it."

Leona, his wife, was more succinct: "We ain't Martians—they act like you're not human or something because you seen it. I'm about to get a gun and shoot some of these smart alecks if they don't stay to hell away."

10,147 FLYING SAUCER SIGHTINGS

(Ever since the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel recorded an encounter with a fiery flying wheel, people have been seeing saucerlike things in the sky. In the following report Life Correspondent Bill Wise tells of the Air Force's efforts to make sense of all.)

DAYTON, OHIO.—There have been 10,147 reported UFO sightings since a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold claimed he saw a set of rapidly moving "things" in the air near Mount Rainier, Wash., on June 24, 1947. Arnold's widely publicized report set off the first of the modern epidemics of saucer sighting, and the Air Force has been in the saucer business ever since. Its "Project Bluebook" occupies a single room on the second floor of a windowless red concrete building here at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Its functions: (1) to try to find an explanation for all reported sightings of unidentified flying objects, (2) to discover whether the UFO's pose any security threat, and (3) to determine if UFO's exhibit any advanced technology which the United States could put to use.

To assist Project Bluebook, there is an UFO officer stationed at every Air Force base in the country; the officer at the base nearest a reported sighting is responsible for initiating the investigation. According to Maj. Hector Quintanella, Jr., a physicist who heads Project Bluebook, most UFO sightings have a rational and usually very simple explanation. The most common reports stem from bright stars, planets and meteorites, particularly when viewed through broken clouds or haze.

Others turn out to be satellites—few people realize that there are now more than 30 of these in orbit that are visible to the naked eye. Thousands of balloons—some as large as 300 feet in diameter, some carrying running lights—are released daily at airports, weather stations and research centers, and these lead to a great many "saucer" reports. Conventional aircraft are another major source—reflecting sun by day or providing the glow of running lights or jet afterburners or the flash of photo recon strobe lights at night.

All satellites and most weather balloons and aircraft are being carefully tracked and logged by military or civilian agencies, and Project Bluebook routinely checks sightings against these records. Unreported local flights by private aircraft pose the most frequent problem in this detective work.

Strange blips on radar screens have occasionally unsettled personnel at tracking stations—e.g., two "objects" that appeared on the scopes at Patuxent Naval Air Station (Md.) last December seemingly approaching the base at an estimated 4,800 miles an hour before making a tight turn and disappearing. But these can generally be traced to pulsating "bugs" within a receiving set or to interference from other neighboring electronic gear. Wright-Patterson experts have been able to account for every errant radar blip reported to date.

There is no question that our Air Force and those of other countries employ assorted airborne hardware as tactical and training devices. Many of these are, of course, seen as flying saucers and it is obvious that for security reasons the Air Force is reluctant to talk about them.

"I have looked at the records of nearly every UFO case back to 1947," says Major Quintanella, "and my feeling is that the vast majority have involved simple misinterpretation of natural phenomena."

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 Mannon, 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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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 phenomenon 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. HYNEK. No, sir.

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

Dr. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. Oh. [Laughter.]

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

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

Mr. PRICE. If they did travel in outer space there would be a record somewhere of their travels in outer space?

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 in 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-

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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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 has 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. 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. CLANCOY. 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. CLANCOY. What percentage of the reported incidents have been reported on radar screens?

Major QUINTANILLA. About 1.5 percent, sir.

Mr. CLANCOY. 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.

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

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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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. HYNEK. 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. Hynek 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. Hynek, 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.)