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1968: Unidentified Flying Objects, January - April (folder
B131-24)
Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers

January 3, 1968

Mr. Jerome Gardeski
915 Lyon, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gardeski:

Thank you for your telegram in support of House Resolution 946.

As you know, some months ago I recommended a congressional investigation of the UFO's. The House Committee on Armed Services did hold hearings on the subject, and largely as a result the Air Force has commissioned scientists at the University of Colorado to make a thorough investigation and study of this phenomena.

We are awaiting the report of that study.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:mr

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. MCFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

1967 DEC 26 PM 2 58

BUBQ17 (52)DEA083
DE GPA309 POM GRAND RAPIDS MICH 26
CONGRESSMAN GERALD R FORD
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHDC
I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT CONGRESSMAN LOUIS WYMANS PROPOSAL
HOUSE RESOLUTION 946 ON UFO'S
JEROME GARDESKI 915 LYON ST NE.

LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O."

(Utke, Allen R. Ph.D.)

December 6, 1967

Allen R. Utke, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Wisconsin State University
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

Dear Doctor Utke:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 30 with your article entitled, "Swamp Gas, Will-O'-The-Wisp, or UFOs?"

As you know, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning the whole matter of UFOs. I called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966, and I note with interest H. Res. 946 sponsored by Rep. Louis C. Wyman which would authorize the House Committee on Science and Astronautics to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of UFOs. This resolution is presently pending with the House Committee on Rules, and no action has as yet been scheduled on it.

As you also know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon, and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this important investigation. I thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed copies of two news articles I have seen concerning this current study.

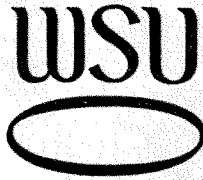
Any additional information that you have available concerning this whole matter would be deeply appreciated. I certainly do want the public to be completely informed concerning the UFO phenomenon.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.
GRF:h
Encl.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY



414/235-6220

Correctly
WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN 54901

SCHOOL OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

November 30, 1967

Very interesting

Representative Gerald Ford
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Ford:

I noted with interest your attempts to obtain a congressional investigation of UFOs, after the sightings in your state in March of 1966. I am hoping, therefore, that, if you still feel the same way toward this subject, you will actively support House Resolution 946 sponsored by Louis C. Wyman of New Hampshire.

My interest in this matter stems from the fact, that to my knowledge, I am one of the only, or perhaps the only, scientist actively investigating UFO reports in Wisconsin and the surrounding areas (including Upper Michigan). I have on file, taped accounts of sightings (including close-proximity sightings), drawings of objects made by observers, and a 30 sec., 8 mm. color movie of a UFO taken by a Policeman in Illinois. This evidence convinces me that UFOs exist as a phenomenon in the sky and that they should be considered to be an area of valid interest and importance, by everyone. A definite answer to this problem should be found, and I believe a congressional investigation is an important first step in this regard. One inconclusive pattern I have noted in the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan sightings that I have investigated also convinces me that this phenomenon could be of great importance and concern to this country.

I would be willing to brief you on the data I have, should you desire. I have already talked to Representative William Steiger in this respect and Representative Wyman currently has in his possession the movie I mentioned above. If I can be of any help to you with regard to your decision to support or oppose House Resolution 946, please feel free to contact me.

I have also enclosed with this letter a copy of an article I published in the October, 1967 issue of Fate magazine. I believe it sheds new light on the "swamp gas" sightings in your state of last year and thought you might be interested in reading it.

Respectfully yours,

Allen R. Utke

Allen R. Utke, Ph.D.
Asst. Prof. of Chemistry

ARU/jb
Enc.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

DR. ALLEN R. UTKE, born in 1936 in Rock Island, Ill., obtained a B.S. in chemistry from Augustana College and an M.S. and Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the State University of Iowa. He presently holds a position as assistant professor of chemistry at Wisconsin State University in Oshkosh.

He has been interested in UFOs for several years, having written and lectured extensively on the subject as well as participating in radio and TV discussions. He is an active member of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) and a consultant on the staff of APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization).

By Allen R. Utke



SWAMP GAS WILL-O'-THE-WISP OR UFOs?

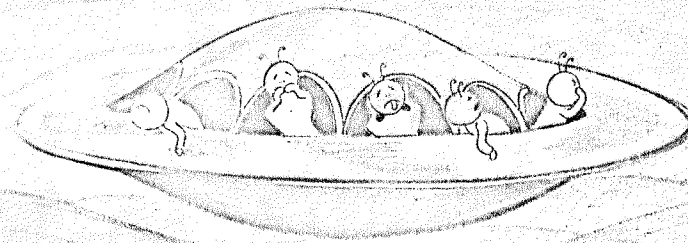
Any of the three can give mere men a merry chase. Which played the lead in Michigan's show?

EARLY IN March, 1966, strange objects began to be seen in the Michigan skies and on March 14, 17, 20 and 21 they provided the spectacular UFO show which was so well-publicized in newspapers across the country.

Act I of the show was staged on March 14 near Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County when strange lighted objects performed in the predawn sky before an audience of amazed civilians and law enforcement officers.

On March 17 other civilians and policemen watched Act II, another predawn show in the sky over another part of the same Michigan county.

Act III began on the night of March 20. The stage had shifted to a swampy area near Dexter, a small town about 10 miles west of Ann Arbor. At about eight-thirty in the evening a local farmer named Frank Manor and his son Ronald claimed they had seen a bright object, like a mete-



or, drop out of the sky and land about a half mile from their farm. They said they approached to within about 500 yards of an object that was flashing red, white and blue lights from where it sat just off the ground in the swamp.

After the Manors reported, a crowd of over 50 persons including police gathered quickly and watched the same object and several similar objects perform gyrations on the ground and in the skies near Dexter. Several of the elusive objects were chased by police in six separate patrol cars.

The grand finale of this UFO spectacular came on the following night, March 21, in Hillsdale, Mich., 50 miles west of Dexter. Hillsdale Civil Defense Director William Van Horn, a college

dean, and 87 co-eds watched for several hours from a safe distance as a UFO alternately hovered and maneuvered over a swamp near the Hillsdale College campus.

Several minor curtain calls followed the Hillsdale sighting but the big show was over after March 21.

Unfortunately the experts arrived too late to see the performance. But Maj. Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Bluebook, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at Northwestern University and civilian consultant to the Air Force on UFOs, and several United States Air Force officers might not have arrived at all if the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings hadn't received such wide press and television coverage! Once on the scene they con-

fined their investigation to these two sightings only. Visiting Dexter and Hillsdale they talked with many of those persons who claim to have seen the flying objects on March 20 and 21.

It was at this point that Dr. Hynek, spokesman for the Air Force, found himself in a tight spot. Public pressure for an explanation had mounted quickly because of the publicity given the sightings and Dr. Hynek was directed by the Air Force to state his views — although of course he had not seen the play!

Later he explained in an article in the December 17, 1966, *Saturday Evening Post*:

"In the midst of this confusion I got a message from the Air Force: There would be a press conference and I would issue a statement about the cause of the sightings. It did me no good to protest, to say that as yet I had no real idea what had caused the reported sightings in the swamps. I was to have a press conference, ready or not.

"Searching for a justifiable explanation of the sightings I remembered a phone call from a botanist at the University of Michigan who called my attention to the phenomenon of burning swamp gas . . . After learning more about swamp gas from other Michigan scientists I decided that it was a 'possible'

explanation that I would offer to the reporters."

As it turned out this was an unfortunate choice of "possible" answers and Dr. Hynek promptly found himself stuck with it. For at the hastily-called press conference on March 25 the reporters present ignored his word "possible" and many of the stories the next day not only stated swamp gas was the cause of the Michigan sightings but implied it was the cause of other UFO sightings as well. Major Quintanilla further tightened Hynek's position when he publicly said the swamp gas theory satisfied him and placed the Michigan sightings in the "explained" category.

In the *Saturday Evening Post* article Dr. Hynek seemed to express some regret over his hastily chosen theory. But the public has shown no inclination to disassociate Dr. Hynek and swamp gas and he remains stuck with what has become a very controversial theory.

It seems the whole country is divided into three schools of thought about the swamp gas theory — pro, con and confused. Some persons have simply accepted the theory at face value and a recent Gallup poll indicated that this explanation is now one of the six most frequently given by persons who attempt

PAGE

to explain UFO phenomena. Others reject the theory, often violently. But most persons still don't know what to think although they tend more toward disbelief rather than belief of the explanation.

Perhaps in the end the controversy will serve a useful purpose, for the scientists may be forced to give consideration to the three questions at the heart of the controversy:

- (1) Does swamp gas really exist?
- (2) If swamp gas does exist what is it?
- (3) Is swamp gas a logical explanation for the Michigan UFO sightings?

The third question cannot be answered without answering the first two although many persons including Air Force personnel have attempted to do just that. The problem lies in the fact that most people know very little about swamp gas and it seems almost as mysterious as the flying saucers themselves. The question becomes, what does science know about swamp gas?

DOES SWAMP GAS EXIST?

BEFORE WE CAN consider swamp gas with any knowledgeability we must stop to consider just plain gas. *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary* (copyright 1965) defines gas

as "a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely."

We immediately are in trouble with swamp gas as an explanation for the Michigan UFOs because the reports indicate they *did have independent shape* and they *did not expand indefinitely*. Moreover, swamp gas must be assumed to be spontaneously combustible and if this is so, how is it so?

Down the ages there have been stories of curious unearthly lights seen over bogs, swamps and graveyards. This phenomenon has been called variously will-o'-the-wisp, corpse candle, fox fire, jack-o'-lantern, friar's lantern, spunkie and *ignis fatuus*. The latter term comes from the Latin and means foolish fire or fool's fire.

Many legends have built up around this phenomenon in times past. In Britain it was thought that the flickering blue lights lured travelers deeper and deeper into the swamps and thus to their doom. In the folklore of many lands *ignis fatuus* is an omen of death. Even today the name frequently is applied to anything which is misleading.

We no longer fear the phenomenon and today the lights simply are attributed to a luminous gas emanating from the

swamp. Descriptions of luminous swamp gas by those claiming to have seen it usually agree quite closely. They will tell you they saw flame-like, torch-like, balloon-shaped or mushroom-shaped lights on a windless summer or warm autumn evening. The lights were either on the ground or just above it; they were pale blue with an occasional tinge of some other color but they never are described as white. The lights usually are only a few inches in size and seldom larger than four or five feet long or in diameter. They may appear to be steady or they may flicker on and off as if extinguished and reignited. If they do not actually move they give the impression of moving if several of them flicker on and off in close proximity. Or they may actually rise into the air. But they rarely rise more than five to 10 feet off the ground before they are extinguished. No single flame or ball of swamp gas ever is described as lasting more than a minute or so before it is extinguished. The only sound ever described in connection with these lights is an occasional popping sound.

MANY SCIENTISTS are among those who over a period of hundreds of years have reported seeing luminous swamp

gas. Oddly enough, however, no extensive or comprehensive scientific study of natural swamp gas ever has been undertaken. The research that has been done has been concerned with attempting to duplicate in the laboratory the process by which swamp gas may be produced in nature.

Scientists seem no longer to question the fact that swamp gas contains methane, probably in most cases as its chief component. In fact, for over 50 years methane frequently has been nicknamed marsh gas.

A French scientist, N. Grehant, analyzed a sample of natural swamp gas in 1908 and reported that he found it contained considerable quantities of methane. Several other studies of natural swamp gas also have substantiated this. And studies of synthetic swamp gas produced in the laboratory indicate the chief component is methane.

Methane also is the chief component of natural gas. One might say swamp gas is a lot like the gas that comes out of the burner on your gas stove except that the latter has had an odorant added. Swamp gas then, when it burns, obviously should look a lot like the gas flame on a stove.

Exactly how swamp gas forms and why it burns are questions the scientists cannot answer

SWAMP GAS, WILL-O'-THE-WISP OR UFOs?

completely yet. Some scientists apparently feel they have enough information to give some satisfactory answers. They point out that methane is a common and abundant product of the bacterial decay and decomposition of practically any kind of organic or vegetable matter when that decay occurs in oxygen-free (anaerobic) conditions. The essential ingredient produced by the decay seems to be the bacteria that can exist only in the absence of oxygen. These bacteria are found extensively in black mud and decaying vegetable matter.

In nature methane forms most often when plants die and decompose under warm water. The water excludes oxygen and this favors the development of the necessary bacteria. The decay takes place for the most part in late summer and early autumn because of the heat and a swamp or marsh obviously is ideally suited for the process. In the case of a shallow swamp a sudden freeze may trap the gas until a spring thaw releases it. So swamp gas is occasionally seen in the spring.

The anaerobic bacteria that cause the decay have not been studied as extensively as most other types of bacteria because of the difficulties involved in producing them in a pure state in an

oxygen-free atmosphere. Nevertheless, about eight different species have been studied in laboratories since 1937. Some scientists even have succeeded in duplicating the decay process under laboratory conditions.

As to how swamp gas ignites to become luminous, scientists can make only educated guesses. Not enough research has been conducted on swamp gas to say for sure but one theory has been around since 1850. Many scientists believe the decay probably results in the formation of impure methane. They speculate that it may be contaminated with two compounds of phosphorous and hydrogen called phosphine and diphosphine. Diphosphine always results, in lesser quantities, in any process that produces phosphine. Both are highly flammable and diphosphine will burn spontaneously when it comes in contact with air. So as the swamp gas escapes from the surface of the swamp the diphosphine present probably ignites spontaneously setting fire to the methane, much like the pilot light on a gas stove ignites the methane escaping from the burner.

Some scientists have found that methane-air mixtures will burst into flame spontaneously if they suddenly are released from high pressure and allowed to ex-

pand into the air. Swamp gas possibly may ignite in this way as it escapes from below the surface of the swamp. However, we must remember, this is only conjecture and never has been proven.

DOES SWAMP GAS EXPLAIN THE MICHIGAN UFOs?

SUPERFICIALLY, at least, Dr. Hynek's statement that the Michigan UFOs of March, 1966, were swamp gas seems quite reasonable.

Luminous swamp gas does exist and it does produce an eerie light consisting of several colors to hover over swamps. It seems possible that luminous swamp gas was released by a spring thaw at Dexter and Hillsdale and was mistaken by those who saw it for something more since people are prone to exaggerate when they are excited.

Dr. Hynek seems to have made a valid point when he said, "A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space."

On the other hand, the swamp gas theory raises more questions about the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings than it answers. It just doesn't "ring true" for three reasons:

(1) As Dr. Albert Hibbs, a scientist at the California Institute of Technology, recently said,

"The characteristics of swamp gas do not accord with what was reported."

For example, the color of swamp gas is usually pale blue with tinges of other colors. It never is reported as being white. Yet both the Dexter and Hillsdale objects were described as having brilliant white lights.

Swamp gas emanations seldom get larger than four or five feet in size, yet both the Dexter and Hillsdale objects were estimated to be 20 or more feet in diameter.

Swamp gas rarely if ever rises more than 10 feet in the air, yet the Dexter object was seen to drop to the ground from high in the air then rise again to a height of about 500 feet before settling to the ground again. In the first place no ball of burning swamp gas could last that long since all gases expand quickly in the atmosphere. An odor released at one point in a room quickly fills the whole room, for example. And the tendency of a hot or burning gas to expand or disperse is greatly enhanced. There is nothing inherent in a ball or flame of methane to counter its tendency to expand and thus swamp gas flares must be short-lived — usually they are extinguished within only a minute or so. But in both the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings the ob-

FATE

SWAMP GAS, WILL-O'-THE-WISP OR UFOs?

ject was in view for a long time — for several hours in the latter case.

Even if a ball of swamp gas were to float high in the air its speed should be limited by the speed of the wind. But the object the Manors saw was described as passing directly over them "in just an instant." And shortly after this an object seen over the nearby town of Chelsea was seen "departing at a high rate of speed."

We also must ask how four balls of swamp gas chased by six police cars at the site of the Dexter sighting could outdistance these cars.

And in all of these sightings why did the swamp gas retreat as it was approached?

How can we account for the sound described by Frank Manor as "like one of those new police sirens, kind of like shooting a bullet through a canyon?" This certainly was not the popping sound usually associated with swamp gas.

And how can we explain the higher than normal levels of radioactivity found at the site of the Hillsdale sighting by Civil Defense Director William Van Horn? Swamp gas is not radioactive and Van Horn was quite convinced the radioactivity was caused by the object seen.

These are some of the unan-

swered questions Hynek's theory seems to raise.

(2) Another difficulty with the swamp gas theory is that even it explains the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings of March 20 and 21 it does not account for the sightings of March 14 and 17.

On March 14 near Dexter two deputy sheriffs witnessed four discs "flying in line formation in the predawn hours. They reported these objects "could move at fantastic speeds, make very sharp turns, dive and climb and hover with great maneuverability." If this account is true these objects (seen in the Dexter area) obviously could not have been swamp gas.

(3) A last detractor of the swamp gas theory is the fact that those persons who saw the objects live in or near swamp areas. At least some of them must be familiar with the appearance of luminous swamp gas. And yet to a person they were convinced swamp gas is not what they saw.

Frank Manor said simply, "It was an object . . . I don't care who believes me. I believe me."

Mrs. Manor who also saw the object later remarked, "I'm not a professor and I'm not as educated as him but I think Dr. Hynek was all wrong."

Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor saw the object and said,

40

"I have no idea what it was but I don't think it was swamp gas."

Perhaps Patrolman Robert Hunawill best summed up the statements of the many witnesses when he said, "It's not marsh gas! My reaction to Dr. Hynek is the same as the rest of the people around here. He made us look like fools. I don't think he'll get any cooperation out of these people anymore."

REEVALUATING THE SWAMP GAS THEORY

SWAMP GAS does not seem adequately to explain the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings and does not take into account the previous sightings on March 14 and 17 in the same area.

It seems to raise more questions than it answers.

Those who saw the objects are convinced they did not see swamp gas. And at least some of these people are familiar with the phenomenon of swamp gas.

Moreover, many persons who

did not see the objects but who are familiar with swamp gas also question Dr. Hynek's theory. Dr. Neil Harriman, biologist at Wisconsin State University, summed up his feelings about swamp gas as follows:

"I saw swamp gas one evening in the summer of 1950 or 1951 over a small marshy arm of a city park lake in Ferguson, St. Louis County, Mo. It was July or August and the air was very hot, humid and still. The appearance was of a bluish-white mass of vaporous material, very roughly globular or spherical, making no sound and rising very gently through the air to a height of perhaps five or six feet before going out. The light was soft and diffuse, not at all like any "mechanical" light source I have ever seen. The ignited gas did not move at all rapidly nor in any *clearly defined shape*—I cannot imagine that it could have been mistaken for any machine or contrivance."



NO COFFEE BREAK FOR DEATH

AS GEORGE GREEN, 59, was installing a length of pipe in a broken cesspool drain in Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N.Y., a half dozen of his fellow workers decided to take their morning coffee break. They invited Green to accompany them but he said he wanted to stay and finish up his end of the job. When the others returned they found the trench in which Green was working had collapsed and buried him. They dug him out quickly but their efforts to revive him failed.

FATE

The GALLUP POLL Reports:

FIVE MILLION Americans Have Seen "FLYING SAUCERS"

Extent of acceptance of credibility of "saucers" astonishes pollsters long accustomed to vagaries of public opinion.

By George H. Gallup, III, and John O. Davies, III*

LATE ONE NIGHT a Danville, Ill., housewife and her husband were driving home along a dreary stretch of highway. Suddenly a strange, glowing light above the car attracted her attention.

What the woman saw, she later told a Gallup Poll interviewer, was a "saucer-shaped object about 10 or 12 feet in diameter hovering about 50 feet above the car." The object followed them for "five or six minutes and then raised up suddenly and shot off out of view."

When asked about the feeling she had as she viewed her "saucer" she said she was too excited to be afraid. "Anyway," she pointed out, "we probably could

have gotten away before anyone could get down and out of it."

What was it?

"Our government has something to do with it, I'm sure of that," she reasoned. "They've been experimenting with something like this for years."

She and her husband weren't the only ones to see the phenomenon that night. Shortly after their experience two Illinois state policemen reportedly spotted a similar object near Danville and followed it in their car for 10 miles until it vanished abruptly.

The experience of this Danville couple is not as rare as one might believe. Although as many as 11,000 sightings have been reported to the United States Air Force, the Gallup Poll has discovered that somewhere in the neighborhood of five million

*Mr. Gallup is Managing Director of the Gallup Poll (American Institute of Public Opinion).
Mr. Davies is the organization's editor.

90TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 946

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 1967

Mr. WYMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

1 *Resolved*, That the Committee on Science and Astro-
2 nautics, acting as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized
3 and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and
4 study of unidentified flying objects.

5 For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the com-
6 mittee or subcommittee is authorized to sit and act during the
7 present Congress at such times and places within the United
8 States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof,
9 whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has ad-
10 journed, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or
11 otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses
12 and the production of such books, records, correspondence,

1 memorandums, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary;
2 except that neither the committee nor any subcommittee
3 thereof may sit while the House is meeting unless special
4 leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. Sub-
5 penas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of
6 the committee or any member of the committee designated by
7 him, and may be served by any person designated by such
8 chairman or member.

9 The committee shall report to the House as soon as
10 practicable during the present Congress the results of its
11 investigation and study, together with such recommendations
12 as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when
13 the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of
14 the House.

90TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 946

RESOLUTION

To authorize the Committee on Science and
Aeronautics to conduct an investigation and
study of unidentified flying objects.

By Mr. WYMAN

OCTOBER 17, 1967

Referred to the Committee on Rules

LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O."

(Thomas, William)

Re: H.Res. 946

January 8, 1968

Mr. William Thomas
145 Bennett
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 5 in support of H. Res. 946.

As you know, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning the whole matter of UFOs. I called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966, and I note with interest H. Res. 946 sponsored by Rep. Louis C. Wyman which would authorize the House Committee on Science and Astronautics to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of UFOs. This resolution is presently pending with the House Committee on Rules, and no action has as yet been scheduled on it.

As you also know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon, and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this important investigation.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:h

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

1-5-68

Congressman G Ford
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20510

Small

Dear Congressman Ford:

can on STAR
investigat UFO

This letter is about House Resolution 946, which I am asking for your vigorous support. To pass the Rules Committee

I wish to thank you, for taking your time to read about my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely yours,
William Thomas
145. Bennett
Ferndale Michigan
48220

PHOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

July 12, 1968

Please show this to the Congress, the Senate, and debate this last of the sacred cow issues.

Raymond G. Howley
1815 E. NEWBARRY BLVD. APT.(E)
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN. 53211

NIFIA
Don't
MD
The extraordinary story of the half-million-dollar "trick" to make Americans believe the Condon committee was conducting an objective investigation

I personally feel that the President has a very heavy hand of censure on this issue; and that he fears some kind of world religious upheaval!
Remember Galileo Galilei?

FLYING SAUCER FIASCO

BY JOHN G. FULLER

A STRANGE SERIES of incidents in the University of Colorado Unidentified Flying Objects study has led to a near-mutiny by several of the staff scientists, the dismissal of two Ph.D's on the staff and the resignation of the project's administrative assistant.

The study, announced as a totally objective scientific investigation of one of the most puzzling phenomena of modern times, has already cost the taxpayer over half a million dollars. The committee is scheduled to release its report by the end of the year.

The announcement by the Secretary of Defense in October, 1966, that the Air Force had selected Dr. Edward U. Condon and the University of Colorado for the UFO research contract was welcomed both by skeptical observers and those convinced of the existence of flying saucers.

Maj. Donald Keyhoe and his National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, who were among the severest critics of the Air Force's study, publicly announced cautious support and offered NICAP's nationwide UFO reporting system to the new research group.

Condon, then 64, a distinguished physicist, former president of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society, had grappled with and subdued the House Un-American Activities Committee, and served as director of the U.S. Government's National Bureau of Standards from 1945 to 1951. His leadership appeared to promise pure scientific objectivity in the study. Only two details seemed to disturb some observers. Four out of the first five investigators appointed were psychologists. And Robert J. Low, project coordinator and key operations man in the study, held a master's degree in business administration (although his bachelor's degree was in electrical engineering). Some critics felt that more physical scientists were needed. Condon assured them that the staff would become more balanced, and later, it was.

The project staff received a minor jolt early in October of 1966, when the Denver Post published a story: CU AIDE SLAPS UFO STUDY. Low was quoted as saying that the UFO project "comes pretty close to the criteria of nonacceptability" as a university function.

But the massive problems of getting the project started left little time for debate over that statement. Briefings were held in which Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy of Northwestern University and one of the few scientists in the country who had given UFO's serious study, gave the staff the background information he had acquired in his 20 years as scientific consultant for the Air Force. Later, such authorities as Major Keyhoe and Richard Hall from NICAP, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, of the Air Force UFO study, and Dr. James McDonald, senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and professor in the De-

partment of Meteorology at the University of Arizona, addressed the group.

McDonald had carried out an extensive investigation on his own. After examining the hundreds of well-documented reports of sightings by military and airline pilots, radar operators, police, technical observers and articulate, rational laymen, McDonald rejected as highly unlikely such conventional explanations for UFO's as ball lightning (plasma), hallucinations, hoaxes and misinterpretations of natural phenomena. He concluded that "only abysmally limited scientific competence has been brought to the study of UFO's within Air Force circles in the past 15 years. Unfortunately, during all this time, the scientific community and the public were repeatedly assured that substantial scientific talent was being used. . . ."

From the beginning, the relationship between Dr. McDonald and Robert Low, the project coordinator, was abrasive. Low, who speaks softly, smoothly and guardedly, contrasts sharply with McDonald, who is intense and bluntly articulate.

The relationship between the Colorado group and NICAP was especially important. NICAP was large and well-organized, and could supply information on UFO sightings on a nationwide scale. NICAP hoped that the Colorado group would retain its scientific objectivity by concentrating on the estimated ten percent of "high credibility" cases, such as those Dr. McDonald was investigating.

The first major turbulence in the new project came early in February, 1967. Condon, burdened by heavy responsibilities in many public and educational projects, could not spend much time in the project offices. Low assumed the responsibilities for most of the decision-making. But on January 25, Condon, known for his breezy, anecdotal style, spoke before a chapter of Sigma Xi, the honorary scientific fraternity. The Elmira, N.Y., Star-Gazette reported:

"Unidentified flying objects 'are not the business of the Air Force,' . . . Dr. Edward U. Condon said here Wednesday night. . . . Dr. Condon left no doubt as to his personal sentiments on the matter: 'It is my inclination right now to recommend that the Government get out of this business. My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it.' With a smile, he added, 'but I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year. . . .'"

The story also quoted Condon as saying: "What we're always reduced to is interviewing persons who claim they've had some kind of experience. . . . I don't know of any cases where the phenomenon was still there after the person reports it . . . and it seems odd, but these people always seem to wait until they get home before they report what they saw."

Keyhoe knew of cases where "the phenomenon was still there after the person reported it," and where the observer didn't wait to get home

continued

SAUCER FIASCO CONTINUED

A startling memo from Robert Low said "the trick would be" to "appear" objective

before he reported it. He bristled. He knew that Condon had not yet investigated any field cases personally, nor had any members of the staff completed any meaningful research. The project was only three months old. "I have to admit," Keyhoe told David Saunders, a key staff member, "that I'm shocked by these statements. Is this a scientific investigation or isn't it?"

Condon wrote Keyhoe that some of his remarks had been taken out of context. NICAP then issued this statement: "Although we retain some reservations about the impressions of Dr. Condon's attitudes conveyed through some press accounts, we find no reason to go along with the skeptics who interpret the project merely as the latest gambit in an Air Force propaganda campaign. Having met most of the scientists involved, we are generally satisfied with their fair-mindedness and their thorough plans. . . ."

The NICAP cooperation made it possible to establish an Early Warning System, and staff investigators were now being dispatched for field reports. Saunders gave particular attention to field surveys, as well as to the development of a master casebook and staff discussions of major cases. Low was giving the staff members considerable leeway in the approach they were taking. Condon, with his office some distance away, did not appear frequently, and some of the staff felt that it was often frustrating to try to reach him. During this time, it seemed to some of the staff that several potentially interesting cases were turned down for investigation by Low for what were apparently specious reasons.

Another scientific investigator, Dr. Norman Levine, joined the project and immediately became aware of the strained atmosphere developing between Low and several members of the staff. Condon himself was heard to say that he wished the project could give the money back.

A senior member of the staff who was asked to make a speech before a teachers association began looking for specific details on the origin of the project. He was told that he might find some information in the open-files folder under the heading AIR FORCE CONTRACT AND BACKGROUND. The relaxed open-file system was part of a general overall policy to keep the project out of the cloak-and-dagger category. (In a later memo, Low said: "The key point to keep in mind, it seems to me, is that our own files are not secure, they are not confidential, they can't be kept confidential, nor should they be. . . . It is inconsistent with the purposes of a university to keep confidential any records of research activity—or any other records for that matter.")

The staff member found most of the material about the contract rather dull going, but one memo, written by Low to university officials on August 9, 1966, contained a few fresh details. The memo, labeled "Some Thoughts on the UFO Project," had been written before the contract was signed. In it, Low said: ". . . Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers who, although they couldn't possibly *prove* a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observations. The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of non-believers trying their best to be objective, but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing—the psychology and sociology of persons and groups who report seeing UFO's. If the emphasis were put here, rather than on examination of the old question of the physical reality of the saucer, I think the scientific community would quickly get the message. . . . I'm inclined to feel at this early stage that, if we set up the thing right and take pains to get the proper people involved and have success in presenting the image we want to present to the scientific community, we could carry the job off to our benefit. . . ."

When Levine read the memo, he was disturbed by the word "trick" and the phrase about making the investigation "appear a totally objective study" to the public. Others on the staff had a similar reaction.

Many staff members were also disturbed by the news that Condon had decided to attend the June Congress of "Ufologists" in New York. This was a convention of far-out supporters of undocumented and highly colorful UFO sightings.

On September 18, Condon, Low and Saunders met for the first time in many weeks. As a result of his reading of the memo, Saunders was deeply concerned about the negative approach to the UFO problem. It would be easy, he felt, to concentrate on the nut-and-kook cases and persuasively eliminate any serious consideration of the real problem.

The meeting went on for three hours. Low did most of the talking. Condon seemed tired. Low's position was that Saunders was sticking his nose into something that was none of his business. Condon's position was that he didn't understand what Saunders was talking about.

Saunders was led to believe that if by chance the Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (ETI) hypothesis was substantiated, the announcement would be sent by Condon directly to the Air Force and the President, and never be allowed to go to the public. This troubled him, because Saunders had been given a clear understanding that the report would go first to the National Academy of Sciences, then to the public and Air Force simultaneously. Saunders felt he could not let the problem drop. Another meeting was agreed to.

At this point, Keyhoe suddenly sent word that NICAP was going to take a strong stand against the Condon committee and no longer would supply material and reports. The reason, Keyhoe said, was a new speech made by Condon at the Atomic Spectroscopy Symposium at Gaithersburg, Md., on September 13, 1967. A report of the new Condon speech had already reached Dr. McDonald in a letter from a colleague at the University of Arizona, William S. Bickel, assistant professor of physics on the campus.

"... Dr. Condon's speech was funny and entertaining," Bickel wrote. "But to me, it was also disappointing and surprising. Dr. Condon emphasized mostly funny things. He told of an offer made to him by a contactee, who, for a sizable sum deposited in the right bank would introduce him to a UFO crew. . . . He told how he tracked the case down and concluded

Condon dismissed Mrs. Armstrong had joined the project at its inception with no convictions whatever about UFO's. By February, 1967, she was convinced that the study was being gravely misdirected. When, on February 7, 1968, Condon told her that he was going to fire Saunders and Levine the next day, Mrs. Armstrong's first impulse was to resign immediately. But she then decided first to confront Condon with what she regarded as clear, unassailable documentation of the factors behind the disagreement and low morale of the staff.

She talked to Condon on February 22, 1968, at his office. She told him frankly that there appeared to be an almost unanimous lack of confidence in the project coordinator and his scientific direction of the project. She pointed out that Low had indicated little interest in talking to those who carried out the investigations or in reading their reports. She said that her long, close association with Low gave strong evidence that he was trying very hard to say as little as possible in the final report, and to say that in the most negative way possible. At Condon's request, she wrote a follow-up letter in which she added that the tone of the memo indicated that Low was not unbiased from the beginning. Condon then wrote her: "My position is that that letter is a confidential matter between the two of us and that for you to disclose it to anyone else would be gravely unethical." But after long consideration, Mrs. Armstrong felt that it was more important to the public interest to state her feelings clearly.

The others who left the project also felt they had an obligation to speak out, and when Condon failed to respond positively to his outspoken letter of criticism, McDonald brought the matter before the executive officers of the National Academy of Sciences in a vigorous written protest. Saunders and Levine cleared their desks at Woodbury Hall and left.

Asked about the near-mutiny in the investigating staff, Condon said that he would make no comment. Low stated that he had absolutely "zero comment" to make about the dismissals. Thurston E. Manning, vice president and dean of the faculties of the University of Colorado, delivered word through his secretary that he had nothing to say. Scott Tyler, in charge of public relations for the university, said that he had no comment.

The hope that the establishment of the Colorado study brought with it has dimmed. All that seems to be left is the \$500,000 trick. **END**

ry likely a hoax. . . . My feelings about UFO's are similar to y people—I don't know what they are. I believe people are ings, and I believe a scientific attack on the problem will erty—whatever they are. . . . The net effect of Dr. Condon's if not negative. . . .”

o Bickel, McDonald wrote, “. . . The crackpots are so immedi- able that one need not waste any time at all on them. . . . I fail why a scientific group should be given an address by any e Colorado team on the topic of the crackpot fringe. . . .” me from Keyhoe that he was drafting a long letter to the y group, and NICAP would reconsider its cooperation only if a list of questions were satisfactory.

ember 27, the *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver, Colo.) pub- adline: UFO RESEARCH CHIEF AT CU DISENCHANTED. Condon saying: “I'm almost inclined to think such studies ought to ed unless someone comes up with a new idea on how to ap- blem. . . . The 21st century may die laughing when it looks things we have done. This [the UFO study] may be one.”

urity of the staff began exploring several proposals, including of the entire staff resigning en masse or issuing a press re- ority report. Another proposal was the establishment of an scientific group to explore the rational sighting reports and crackpot-fringe static. There was general agreement that an y of the UFO problem should be made and that accurate and ings should reach the National Academy of Sciences, the e Air Force. A confrontation with Low and Condon was idon expressed regret that his statements had appeared in eral members of the staff told of their concern that the con-

"U.F.O."

(KONLEY, Raymond)

legislative

January 19, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Konley,

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for sending me your cartoon on President Johnson.

It was good of you to send me this, and I appreciate having your views as expressed in this way. Let me assure you that I was happy to hear from you.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

GRF:pc

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L.D. JENK

by RAY KONLEY

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY
I WON'T LIE
BE SURPRISED!

WOOOEE!
HAVE YOU GOT
COMPANY!

THE NO. 1 ISSUE
UFO'S

YAAAAA WHOOOOOOO!

L.D. J.
L.M.S.
L.O.7

BURP
FOO WEE!

GAG

HELP!
WORLD
RELIGIOUS
FRIGHT
WIDE

THE TEXAS OUTHOUST

KNOCK!

1968
SCIENTIFIC
FINDINGS

UFO
REPORT

L.D. J.
C.I.A.

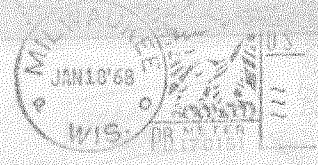
YOUR
CENSORED!

MABEY I'LL LOOK NEXT YEAR, OR YEAR AFTER... MAREV!

RAYMOND G. KONLEY
1815 E. NEWBARRY BLVD.
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
53211

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Let's think



AIR MAIL

CONGRESSMAN

GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN
LEADER

WASHINGTON, D.C.

67, Outlook for '68

READ OTHER SIDE

[Legislative]

"U.F.O."

(NADAN, Paul)

re: Sept. 30 Report

January 29, 1968

Mr. Paul Nadan
Associate Editor
Crown Publishers, Inc.
419 Park Avenue, S.
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Nadan,

I have your letter of January 24 and appreciate your interest in the report of the UFO study being made at the University of Colorado.

If I am able to obtain a copy of the report on or soon after September 30 and if I am permitted to release it, I will be pleased to do what I can to be helpful.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:mr

House of Representatives, U.S.
PUBLIC DOCUMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerald R. Ford
M.C.

Mr. Paul Nadan
Associate Editor
Crown Publishers, Inc.
419 Park Avenue, S.
New York, N. Y. 10016

MICHIGAN.

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 *Crown Publishers, INC.*

419 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

January 24, 1968

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

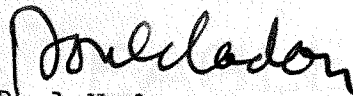
I note that the UFO study at the University of Colorado is being additionally funded, and that the completed report will be submitted for review to the National Academy of Sciences on September 30.

Regarding your interest in doing an introduction to the report and its publication by us along with the report, should you be able to obtain a copy of the report on or soon after September 30 it would be extremely useful to us all (the report of course will be made public January, 1969).

I wonder what you think of this.

My very best wishes.

Sincerely,



Paul Nadan
Associate Editor

PN/bh
enc.

P.S. I've enclosed a copy of your last letter to me.

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

December 20, 1966

Mr. Paul Nadan
Associate Editor
Crown Publishers, Inc.
419 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

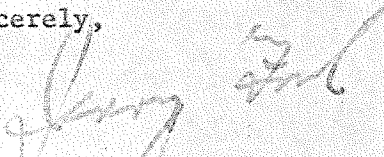
Dear Mr. Nadan:

Thank you for your letter of December 9 providing me with a copy of the reply you received from Dr. Condon's office telling you, regarding your request for an advance copy of the report on UFOs, that it is expected that the report will be released to the public after review by the National Academy of Sciences and that an early copy cannot be promised.

You ask in your letter what is your next move or mine. I am afraid that our next move will have to be that of us waiting until the report has been reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O."

(Bloecher, Ted)

Re: "Report on the UFO Wave of 47"
Dorothy has book at her place

February 26, 1968

Mr. Ted Bloecher
National Investigations
Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bloecher:

Thank you most sincerely for sending me the complimentary copy of the "Report on the UFO Wave of 1947," which you wrote. I do find this of interest and especially appreciate your thinking of me in this regard.

kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:h

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NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

GORDON I. R. LORE, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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

TELEPHONE: (202) 667-9434

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

This copy of the Report on the UFO Wave of 1947 is
sent with the compliments of the author, who hopes
that you will find it of interest.

Ted Bloecher
c/o National Investigations
Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O"

(Beecher, Brook)

March 15, 1968

Mr. Brook Beecher
Devereux School Manor
Post Office Box 1079
Santa Barbara, California 93102

Dear Brook,

May I thank you for your letter of March 11 telling me of your interest in the investigation of unidentified flying objects.

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this matter. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966. Enclosed are some of the news releases which I issued at that time.

As you also know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this important investigation. Enclosed are two news articles concerning this current study.

You will also find enclosed some information from the Air Force and also the Library of Congress which you may be interested in.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.
GRF:h
Encl.

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~~Secret~~

March 11, 1968

Dear Congressman Ford

This letter is in reference to your public statements concerning UFO's.

(1) The Air Force does not lie to the public on UFO's, they simply can't give evidence that isn't there.

(2) Yes the Air Force censors information on UFO's Air Force Regulation 200-2 and JANAP 146 Proves that. But they are not doing this because they have evidence that UFO's are real (interplanetary). Instead, because they cannot speculate on a matter of such great controversy without 100% physical evidence - and as of yet I see no indication that they have this.

(3) You must respond to people's concerns as a congressman or else you would not be in your place. But again you must realize that people tend to believe what makes them feel most comfortable. Thus jumping something to irrational conclusions. They just do not realize that if the Air Force released all 650 unknowns the average untrained reader might jump to illogical conclusions and sensationalism would play its part. All of this turmoil

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might occur over nothing (that is if all UFO's can be Earthly, rationally explained). Or if UFO's don't exist dangers would result from the psychological standpoint. Question: Why should the Dept of the Air Force release something they cannot identify. Certainly the imaginative public isn't qualified to determine what is factual and what is not.

(4) the Air Force is not ^{at all} responsible for the confusion in existence. Egotistic groups like NICAP whose aim is to belittle a more qualified organization (I believe), are largely responsible. In order to increase their own public image. Also cultist (crackpot) groups or contactees play a major part in contributing to the problem by picking or quibbling feeble minded people who haven't got anything else to do then jump to extraterrestrial horisms. Sure the Air Force makes mistakes but they are for many right then egotistic group like NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) who you are well familiar with, or cultist groups run by the contactees or religious bonafides (next page)

3

Why not go to a reliable source like the Air Force for your information. They are certainly more equipped to drill you on details than the other junk you have been hearing or reading about.

As for my qualifications I have none in the form of degrees for I'm only 17 years old. However I have spent nearly 4 years investigating this troublesome subject and I have researched ^(claim) through ~~both~~ both sides and their story. I finally conclude though the Air Force does have faults that can be cleared up, they are by far the best source to get reliable information from.

Please Sir write and tell your own personal views (agreements & disagreements) on what I have stated here. Add your own conclusion covering the subject also. Please enclose any recent reports, dialog, Booklets etc that you may have on hand.
Thank you

Sincerely Yours
Brook Beecher

Brook Beecher
Devereux School, Manor
P. O. Box 1079
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93102

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LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O"

(Harris, Vernon)

March 19, 1968

Mr. Vernon Harris
343 Albert Street
Sebewaing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Harris:

May I thank you for your recent letter and your interest in the investigation of unidentified flying objects.

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

As you know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon, and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this important investigation.

Let me assure you that I appreciate your interest in the study of UFOs, but right now I am waiting for the results of the investigation at the University of Colorado.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:h

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Handwritten mark

Vernon Harris
343 Albert St.
Sebewaing, Michigan

March 8, 1968

Gerald Ford
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford,

You are in a position to help me in a matter that is very important to our county and to mankind.

Have you wondered why our scientists have managed to keep the U.F.O. investigation going for eighteen years and give us no new information on the subject.

Here is some food for thought. There is millions of dollars at stake in a patent on the power system the space ships use and I say space ships as many of our scientists now believe we have visitors from another planet with scientific knowledge thousands of years ahead of our time. I probably know more about the ships and the power system they use than any other man and I know this will require the combined effort of a large number scientific minds and millions of dollars to build the power system.

The money the government is wasting on the investigation is not important, the security of our country is important and it is possible the Russian Scientists could obtain the same knowledge I have and be working on the power system and if they build the system first we are in serious trouble.

I have sufficient facts and evidence and will submit to a polygraph test to prove beyond doubt that we have space ships from another planet and I hope to prove one or more scientists have known this for several years.

I would like to talk this over with you and explain some facts that are impossible to explain in a letter, after you evaluate the facts and evidence I have, I am sure you will agree this should be brought to the attention our scientists as soon as possible.

I was advised to take this before the investigating committee in Washington and have two scientists a physicist and an electrical engineer of whom I will name later to testify.

The engineer and the physicist will be there to verify my statements on the ships and the power system, the two scientists will be there in their own defence and to try and prove me wrong.

A number of our scientists are atheists and I suggest all who testify be asked to take a lie detector test to be sure we will hear the truth.

I have no use for publicity of any kind. I will explain the vertical power system the ships use and how it operates and I am sure there will be facts brought to light that should not be released to the press.

Perhaps you can suggest another way to bring this to the attention of our scientists, whatever method you decide on will be agreeable with me as long as it serves the purpose.

Would it be possible to have the unidentified U.F.O. photographs at Wright Patterson available? They are not necessary to prove my case, however they will furnish valuable information as I will identify the pictures to the satisfaction of all concerned. So far the scientists have refused to let me identify the pictures.

Since 1965 I have talked to several scientists on this subject and one scientist said many of his friends and co-workers in the field of science believe the U. F. O.'s are ships from outer space and believe the air force or the scientist investigating the U. F. O.'s are with holding the truth. He said he would like to see the truth brought out in the open and advised me to take this to Washington and prove the ships are from outer space and clear the way for our scientists to go to work on the power system.

I will appreciate your help.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon Harris

Vernon Harris

LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O."

(Anderson, John)

April 23, 1968

Mr. John Anderson
8523 Cedel Drive
Houston, Texas 77055

Dear Mr. Anderson:

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

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this matter. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966. Enclosed are some of the news releases which I issued at that time.

As you also know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this current study. You will also find enclosed two newspaper articles concerning this investigation.

Also enclosed is some information from the Air Force and the Library of Congress which you may be interested in.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:h

Encl.

8523 Cedel Drive
Houston, Texas 77055
April 12, 1968

Dear Sir:

In researching the topic my English class will debate, I have come upon your name. I call upon you for any assistance that you could offer. The topic is: "Resolved that U. F. O's Do Exist".

This poses several questions to me as a debater and as a result I would be grateful for your views on the subject. Several channels that I would appreciate information on are:

1. How many investigations of aerial phenomenon have been left unsolved by the U. S. Air Force?
2. What are the views of different authorities upon the subject of U. F. O.'s?
3. What were the results and conclusions of "Project Bluebook"?

Please send material, brochures and pamphlets to:

John Anderson
8523 Cedel Drive
Houston, Texas 77055

LEGISLATIVE

"U.F.O."

(Juanillo, R. J.)

April 17, 1968

Mr. R. J. Juanillo
181 East Taylor Street
Apartment 5
San Jose, California 95112

Dear Mr. Juanillo:

May I thank you for your letter of April 13 and for your interest in unidentified flying objects.

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this matter. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966. Enclosed are some of the news releases which I issued at that time.

As you also know, the Air Force has authorized a thorough and complete investigation of UFOs. This investigation is being conducted at this present time at the University of Colorado under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward U. Condon and we hope it will provide the public with all the facts we need about UFOs. I am looking forward with all other interested citizens to seeing the results of this current study. You will also find enclosed two newspaper articles concerning this investigation.

Also enclosed is some information from the Air Force and the Library of Congress which you may be interested in.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.
GRF:h
Encl.

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Juanillo

April 13, 1968

Gerald R. Ford
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

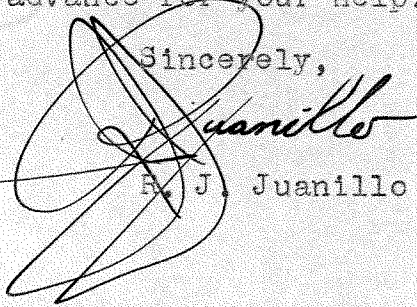
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to learn your opinion of a subject of national interest.

Certainly, you are familiar with UFOs or "flying saucers" as they are commonly called. What do you believe they are? Are they all merely optical illusions, misinterpretations of natural phenomena, or mass hysteria, as some would have us believe? Or is there more to them? I really would like the opinion of a learned man, such as yourself, as to the nature of the UFO anomaly.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,



R. J. Juanillo

RJJ:bj

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