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1969: Unidentified Flying Objects - Unanswered (folder
B156-24)
Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers

Ms. Helen
Kroskopf
Hartman Ark.
72 840

and

Legislation

"U.F.O"

N/A

M E M O

paul Harvey comments--NBC--TV--Noon, Tuesday, March 18, 1969:

"The highly respected Journal of Astronautics and Aeronautics, in an article in the latest issue, recommends further investigations into the UFO problem."

.....

NEWSCAST--NBC-TV, TODAY SHOW, Friday, March 21, 1969:

"There was a series of 40 earthquakes just off the coast of southern California last night. A team has been sent to investigate."

Legislative

"UFO"

December 26, 1968

M/FA

Mr. Gerald Ford
Michigan Office
425 Cherry Street SE.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Ford


About three years ago in 1966 March 31, I wrote to you about trying to obtain surplus equipment to track UFO,s. My two friends Mark Turner and Greg Crowe worked with me at this time. We could not reach the requirments given to us to obtain this equipment.

Well Mark and Greg have lost there interest in UFO,s. This is my eighth year in studing them. I have obtained very much knowledge on them. By adding the facts and clues and sightings, I do not have to call them unidentified flying objects. I know what they are and I know where they come from.

Mr. Ford young people hold big surprises. You may reply in answer to this letter if you wish. And also take it serious if you wish.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Gabriel P. Missad, UFO.Iv.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

Gabriel P Missad UFO.Iv.
Bob Jones University
Greenville South Carolina
PO-34771

MONEY (Continued from Page 5)

These four items alone occupy 15% of the pages in the Report, and used up 21% of the total Project budget. Money was also wasted on investigations of obvious crackpot/psychological reports, and on studies of radar chaff, lens flare (light leak) photographs, and other well-known phenomena which NICAP had pointed out, in early briefings of the Project staff, as useless, pointless lines of investigation.

If these lavish expenditures for little or no result had been spent to better purpose, a great deal of solid and significant information might have been obtained. One outside scientist, for example, with a budget less than 1% that of Colorado, has followed up almost 300 strong cases, interviewing witnesses in person and by telephone, and obtaining a great deal of new information and useful detail.

Sighting Reports

A UFO that executed a sharp, 180-degree turn and was tracked on radar and an object that emitted a beam of light onto an automobile, apparently causing electro-magnetic (E-M) effects, highlight recent high-quality reports.

A radar-visual sighting from Bismarck, North Dakota, was the first in a group of reports from around the Bismarck-Minot area during late November. NICAP's North Dakota Subcommittee Chairman, Donald Flickinger, investigated the incidents.

At about 5:40 p.m., November 26, Jack Wilhelm, Jack Reeves, and John Fischer, FAA employees of the Bismarck Airport Control Tower, saw two round, white UFOs at their duty stations. They alerted Capital Aviation flight instructor Robert Watts, who was flying with a student in the vicinity. (Watts sent a separate, confirming report to NICAP).

One of the objects was heading northeast, about 45 degrees above the horizon, and the other was going south at about 30 degrees. Suddenly, the UFO heading south executed a sharp, 180-degree turn, rose abruptly and joined the other object. The two UFOs hovered briefly, then disappeared "in seconds" toward the northeast.

"There's nothing that could make a maneuver like the lower one did and at that rate of speed," Controller Wilhelm stated to a reporter on the (Fargo) Forum.

In the investigation, Flickinger interviewed the FAA's Chief Flight Controller at Bismarck, Mr. Alvin Bell. Following are excerpts from the Subcommittee chairman's report:

"During the first few moments of the sighting, the tower operators had placed a call to the FAA Flight Control Radar Installation at Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Montana. The radar facility there reported to the tower operators that they had the objects on radar . . . that they were moving erratically, at high speeds, and appeared to be about 10 miles NNE of Bismarck. . .

"Radar installations at Minot AFB and at the South Radar Base in Minot reported no 'bogies' on their screens at that time. However, during an interview with the officers of the Minot Radar Facility, it was learned that their radar. . . is sent by micro-wave to the FAA and USAF facility at Malmstrom. . . and there it is watched visually on the screen. The FAA facility there was the one that reported having the objects on the screen.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

We need your help. It is crucial that we continue a full-scale campaign to bring the UFO subject out in the open in order to offset the Condon report. But the cost of doing so will be great.

There will be costly printing and postage bills in preparing and sending vast amounts of material to scientists for evaluation. We will probably have to hire extra help, at least temporarily. We are making progress in attaining a tax-exempt status, which, if successful, will do much to relieve our financial burden, but we must hire a lawyer and an accountant before we can continue with this.

Everyone should back us so we can get as much rebuttal material as possible to scientists, Congressmen and news media personnel.

We regret that practically all of this issue has to be devoted to the

. . . The radar screens at the Minot facilities are seldom watched. . . , according to USAF officials. . ."

Three Civil Air Patrol cadets later reported that they saw one of the objects between Bismarck and Mandan, flying fast toward the southeast. It emitted "a sound. . . they never heard before."

Object Reacts to Light

A series of nightly reports in the Bismarck-Minot area followed. In general, observers described the same or a similar object. At various times it emitted a bright light beam, responded to a patrolman's spotlight, hovered near a power plant, and was seen by an F-106 Air Force pilot while in flight.

At 7 p.m., Nov. 27, a glowing, round, white UFO, with purple lights lining the top and bottom, was seen by several witnesses over Belcourt, near Bismarck. The object also carried a red light "that would shine a red-colored beam toward the ground whenever (it) stopped."

Belcourt Police Officer Joseph Trotier got to within one-half mile of the UFO, which was hovering about 500 feet from the ground. Officer Trotier quickly shone his patrol car spotlight onto the object, which immediately extinguished its lights and disappeared. It reappeared five minutes later with its lights on and moved south toward Minot.

"I checked with Minot AFB on that particular evening," Mr. Flickinger reported, "while I was listening to the police officers in Belcourt report their sighting over the state police radio. The Air Force officials informed me that one of their F-106's had just landed and reported seeing this object in the Belcourt area also. The Air Force did not investigate further, or at least if they did, they wouldn't tell us about it."

A half-hour after the Trotier sighting, citizens in Deering, a town about 25 miles northeast of Minot and in line with Belcourt, reported to Minot FAA control tower operators seeing "a similar object" cross the sky east of town.

Light Beam Affects Car

At 8 p.m., November 22, Mr. Conway Jones was driving about 12 miles west of Newton, Georgia, when his car radio "faded into static."

"At about this time," Jones reported to NICAP's newly-formed Georgia Subcommittee, "I saw a large bright object. . . about 100 feet in front of me and about the same distance off the ground. As I approached the object, a beam of light came from the yellowish-white oval down to my auto. My engine shut off and my radio and lights ceased to function."

The light beam, Jones stated, not only lit up the car and the road but the ditches and pine trees on both sides.

A few minutes later, the object changed to an orange-red color and withdrew its beam. Then it "moved straight up at a very high rate of speed."

"My car then began to function as if it had never stopped," the witness, a bank accounts adjuster, concluded. "The engine was running with transmission still on drive. The lights and radio were operative."

Jones also told a reporter for the Albany Herald he was so scared that he "drove to Newton as fast as [I] could, hoping someone would stop me."

Colorado report, but we feel the importance warrants it. Good sighting reports are still coming in, however (see above). Now, more than ever, it is extremely important that members do all they can to send us good sighting cases, which will do much toward effectively offsetting the Condon report. We also ask that you send us any newspaper editorials and stories in regard to the report, complete with names and dates of the papers.

We further ask that members make full use of the enclosed order forms.

NICAP could never have survived this long without the generous financial aid of its members and we are confident that you will give us your full support during this crucial period.

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

Vol. IV, No. 9

(This Replaces Nov-Dec 68 Issue)

SPECIAL January 1969

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CONDON REPORT

A larger evaluation by numerous scientists and technical advisers is forthcoming. Meanwhile, here are some important points.

The conclusions of the Colorado University UFO project are fully negative, as we predicted.

However, some of the chapters contain strange contradictions of what the project's director, Dr. Edward U. Condon, stated in his two opening sections. Several reports state the probable existence of structured, intelligently controlled, unknown objects capable of precise maneuvers and extremely high speeds.

In one case (No. 46, Bantam, 396-407), a scientific evaluation of photographs was carried out along with detailed interviews with the witnesses. After an 11-page evaluation in the Bantam edition (entitled *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* and available at most bookstores), the analyst states "the simplest, most direct interpretation of the photographs confirms precisely what the witnesses said they saw."

"This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological, and physical appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses," the analyst concluded. (Bantam, 407).

Regarding this case, Dr. Condon stated, "The UFO images turned out to be too fuzzy to allow worthwhile photogrammetric analysis."

A Mohawk Airlines pilot computed a UFO's speed between 4,500 and 4,800 m.p.h.

The project's analysis states that this sighting "must certainly be classed as an unknown pending further study, which it certainly deserves." (Bantam, 143).

Yet Dr. Condon's overall conclusion is that no further investigations of UFOs are justified.

A UFO paced an RAF fighter plane for 10 minutes while ground radar tracked it.

The Colorado report said of this case that the "probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high." (Bantam, 248-256).

At least 20 percent of the less than 100 cases in the report are listed as unidentified.

Condon Did Not Investigate Cases

Dr. Condon, although he is named in the Air Force contract as the project's principal investigator, did not make a single field investigation. Nor did he interview even one of the hundreds of pilots, astromomers, aerospace engineers, control tower operators, and other highly competent witnesses sent to him by NICAP at Colorado's request.

Large volumes of case material was apparently completely ignored, (see page 2) including the deaths of three Air Force pilots involved in UFO chases and a UFO encounter with an Air Force transport captain who said he believed they were "shot at."

Dr. Condon stated that there should be no attack on the integrity of persons having different opinions on UFOs. Yet, he ridiculed UFO witnesses, well informed scientists on the subject, and NICAP. (Bantam, Section I).

Witnesses Discredited

In regard to witnesses, he said, "Phenomena is often noted by a witness who is inept, inept or unduly excited." The reports, he stated, are usually vague and inaccurate. He also said that witnesses often embellish their stories and multiple witnesses often compare notes and change their stories until they all agree.

Even reports by some astronauts are indicated as dubious by the project director. In one case he says that the window was smudged and the astronauts were very busy, indicating that the report is not authentic.

"When field studies are made by amateur organizations such as . . . NICAP," Condon continued, "there are often several members present on a team, but usually they are persons without technical training and often with a strong bias toward the sensational aspects of the subject."

Condon and Low Praise NICAP

On December 1, 1967, Dr. Condon wrote NICAP's Director urging that we continue cooperation with the project.

"We deeply appreciate the cooperation which has been given to our own scientific study of UFOs," he wrote, "from both the central office and field groups of NICAP. It is my earnest wish that we can continue to work in full cooperation with NICAP because the help that you have given us so far has been of great importance. . ."

Further confirmation of NICAP's competence was indicated by Project Coordinator Robert Low on December 8.

"NICAP's assistance has been invaluable," he stated. "I have said this to you many times and I would like to repeat it here. Your files, because of the high caliber of field investigations NICAP has conducted, are of very good quality. Our working relationship with the headquarters office and NICAP members in the field have been from our point of view excellent, and they have provided valuable support to our research effort. It would be a great pity if they were terminated."

Kook Cases Get Coverage

Dr. Condon takes up considerable space in the report discussing numerous hoaxes and "contactee" trips to Venus but did not include, in his sections, even one strong, responsible case from a good witness. He also accepts Dr. Donald Menzel's misconceptions and states that witnesses should be examined for defective vision (spots before the eyes).

From 1947 to 1966, Condon added, almost no attention was paid to the subject by well-qualified scientists. This is not true. In 1949, for instance, Project Grudge made use, however inadequately, of numerous government agencies, laboratories and private industries, including the Rand Corporation. Dr. Condon also ignored the fact that the Air Force, for over 20 years, has had a chief UFO scientific consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek. There have been numerous other individual scientists, such as Dr. James E. McDonald, who have given the subject careful study.

(Continued on Page 2)

THE UFO INVESTIGATOR

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Washington, D. C. 20036

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TRUTH (Continued from Page 1)

Secrecy Denied

Dr. Condon denied in the report that there was any evidence of secrecy. NICAP gave him evidence of cases that were withheld, reports whose very existence was denied, and sightings whose conclusions were changed years later.

Two days after Colorado signed the contract with the Air Force, Dr. Condon was asked about possible Air Force secrecy. He replied that some people believed this, but that he personally didn't. "Maybe they are [misleading us] . . ." he stated. "I don't care much." (Rocky Mountain News, November 5, 1966).

Although the Congressional hearings of July 29, 1968, before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics was mentioned in the report (Bantam, 49), virtually all of the evidence presented by the highly qualified scientist participants was ignored.

NAS Report Inadequate

A strong statement by the highly prestigious, 32,000-member American Institute for Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA) calling for a full scientific study of UFOs was presented to Dr. Condon before it was published, but there is no indication that it was passed on to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for consideration.

The NAS report fully accepting the project's conclusions and recommendations was based solely upon Colorado's report itself. NAS scientists conducted no study and interviewed no witnesses. They also must have read the report quickly because there is no mention of the discrepancies between the report's "no evidence" conclusion and the unidentified cases listed. Dr. James E. McDonald stated that the Academy's acceptance of the report will prove "a serious source of future embarrassment" to NAS. (See p. 7).

Statements of dissent are pouring into NICAP from scientists, newspaper editorials, cartoons, and persons, many of them highly qualified technically, who were "disgusted" after reading the report, as one correspondent put it. (See p. 7).

NICAP feels that the collective body of criticism to the report will, in the final analysis, discredit Colorado's conclusions and force the subject more into the open than it has ever been.

In addition to more than half a million dollars, Colorado is also receiving royalties from the hardcover and Bantam editions of the report.

WHAT HAPPENED TO KEY WITNESSES?

Among the omissions in the Condon report are the hundreds of detailed UFO sightings by reputable witnesses whose intelligence and credentials make examinations of their reports essential. Without an evaluation of these high-quality UFO cases any conclusions are meaningless.

Their exclusion from the official report cannot be because Dr. Condon did not know that this source material existed or could not obtain access to it. Not only NICAP, but independent researchers, such as Dr. James E. McDonald, made special efforts to be certain that the Colorado University scientists were aware of these cases.

The fact that the project did have these reports in its records is unequivocally established by examination of the project's computer print-out, listing case references with a coded number assigned each case. Obviously, the project had to select certain reports and omit others, but when one examines the 59 case histories the project reviewed in Section IV, Chapters 1-3, an important question emerges: why were certain low-priority, easily-explained sightings chosen for investigation and discussion rather than cases such as those listed below?

In Section II, Summary of the Study (6. Field Investigations), Condon offers a partial answer.

"We concluded that there was little to be gained from the study of old cases, except perhaps to get ideas on mistakes to be avoided in studies of new cases. We therefore decided not to make any field trips to investigate cases that were more than a year old, although in a few cases we did do some work on such cases when their study could be combined with a field investigation of a new case." (Bantam, 15-16).

By this arbitrary decision, a large body of important reports was left unexplored and unexplained.

Another explanation is offered by Dr. Roy Craig in discussing field studies: "In general, testimony of the witnesses recorded shortly after their experiences can be considered more reliable than their retelling of the story two to 20 years later, both because of memory and because of a tendency to crystallization of the story upon repeated retelling. For this reason, reexamination of witnesses in 'classic' cases was not considered a useful way for the project to invest time. Field investigation of classic cases was therefore limited to those in which existing reports contained a serious discrepancy which might be resolved." (Bantam, Section III, Chapter 1, p. 52).

This is a specious argument. By this principle, all testimony in courts would be thrown out where it was *consistent*. Referring to the Washington, D.C., radar reports of July 1952, for example, Craig writes: "On-site interviewing had contributed no new information. Since our experience generally showed that new interviews of witnesses in classic cases did not produce dependable new information, few on-site investigations of such cases were undertaken." (Bantam, 55).

Credible Witnesses Ignored

Hundreds of credible witnesses were therefore ignored because "they could not add anything new" to their original reports. But is this actually the case? On the contrary. Both NICAP and individual investigators like Dr. McDonald *have* uncovered new information and testimony regarding important cases, although working on a far more modest budget than Colorado's. In the very case that Craig mentions, the Washington sightings of 1952, project scientists were given explicit new leads to additional information by NICAP—for example, the report of an airline employee who was present during the sightings and whose testimony had never been heard. The information was ignored by Colorado.

Thus, arguing from a false premise, the Condon committee authorized itself to sweep aside most of the important and unexplained reports by highly credible witnesses. Is *this* the scientific method?

Top Cases Omitted

Among the cases that were brushed off were many reports by scientists—case material that certainly met Colorado's own requirements of witness reliability. These unexplained cases include the following:

A round, silvery UFO that flew north near the White Sands test center, seen by missile expert Dr. Carl J. Zohn and three others (6/29/47); a rapidly ascending ellipsoidal UFO, seen near the horizon by astronomer Dr. Lincoln LaPaz and his family near Fort Sumner, N.M. (7/10/47); a high-speed, oval object tracked with theodolite by aerologist Charles E. Moore and his staff during a balloon tracking at Arrey, N.M. (4/24/49); passage overhead of a fixed formation of rectangular lights seen by astronomer Dr. Clyde Tombaugh and his wife at Las Cruces, N.M. (8/20/49); sightings of several glowing objects performing "controlled maneuvers" on two consecutive days by cosmic-ray expert J.J. Kaliszewski and associates in the air over Wisconsin and Minnesota (10/10-11/51); the sighting by aeronautical engineer Paul R. Hill and a companion at Hampton, Va., of a maneuvering flight of four objects (7/16/52); three round UFOs seen by astronomer Dr. H.P. Wilkens over northern Georgia during a flight from Charleston, W. Va., to Atlanta (6/11/54); a sighting by physicist Dr. Vasil Uzunoglu of a lighted, low-flying UFO near Andrews AFB, Md. (8/1/66); a boomerang-shaped object over Houston, Texas, observed by Dr. Albert Kuntz, University of Houston psychologist (1/21/67); geology professor Bryce M. Hand's sighting of an elongated, silvery UFO near Amherst, Mass. (9/23/67); and a low-hovering, white-glowing object seen by physicist Lewis Hollander and his wife at Mendota, Calif. (10/14/67).

Pilots' Sightings Not Included

Reports by scientists were not the only category rejected by project investigators on the basis of their exclusion criteria. There was wholesale elimination of sightings by engineers and other technical personnel, including many airline pilots. While the report does include several of the more recent airline pilot reports, the omission of the older, well-known cases constitutes a glaring defect. A complete listing of such cases, beginning with the United Airlines sightings of July 4, 1947, in which Capt. E.E. Smith and co-pilot Ralph Stevens saw two groups of disc-like objects while flying between Emmett, Idaho, and Ontario, Oregon, would fill several columns. Even a small selection would have to include the following, none of which was considered:

The Eastern Airlines case of 7/24/48, over Montgomery, Alabama, in which Capt. C.S. Chiles and co-pilot John Whitted saw a rocket-like object pass close to their DC-3, then pull up in a sharp climb; the TWA sighting (and associated reports from the ground and other pilots) near Dayton, Ohio (3/8/50); the observation of a circular UFO with a ring of lighted "ports" underneath by Chicago and Southern Airlines pilots Adams and Anderson over Stuttgart, Ark. (3/20/50); the TWA plane-pacing over Goshen, Ind., reported by Capt. Robert Adickes and co-pilot R.F. Manning (4/27/50); the sighting near Washington, D.C., by American Airlines Capt. Willis Sperry and co-pilot William Gates of a cigar-shaped body that circled the airliner (5/29/50); the Mid-Continent Airlines observation by pilots Lawrence Vinther and James Bachmeier, at Sioux City, Iowa (1/20/51); the Pan American sighting of eight maneuvering discs seen by pilots William Nash and William Fortenberry over Newport News, Va. (7/14/52); and the American Airlines sighting of a glowing orange UFO over central N.Y. by Capt. Raymond Ryan (4/8/56).

Other notable early sightings were made by many private and military pilots. The list is too long to itemize here.

One airline case discussed in some detail by Gordon Thayer (Bantam, Section III, Chapter 5, pp. 139-40) is the well-known BOAC sighting of June 29, 1954, over the Quebec-Labrador area, in which the airliner was paced for a number of minutes by a large object which changed shape and up to six smaller objects that emerged from and merged with the parent UFO. The project's solution for this report is a classic in itself: "Some almost certainly natural phenomenon, which is so rare that it apparently never has been reported before or since."

Reports by Police

Among the omissions are reports by police officers and sheriffs' deputies. In several cases, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials also figured in the reports, such as the one at Redmond, Ore., on 9/24/59, when a large disc was seen pursued by a formation of F-102s, while the flight was tracked on FAA radar; and repeated sightings, some at close range, of a large, lighted, cigar-shaped UFO at Red Bluff, Calif., in mid-August, 1960.

Other excluded cases in which police officers were involved are the well-known Socorro, N. M. report by Officer Lonnie Zamora, who observed a landed, egg-shaped object which left traces (4/24/64); and the equally well-known police report of an 80-mile chase of a UFO from Portage County, Ohio, into Pennsylvania (4/17/66).

The number of important cases involving key witnesses is hardly exhausted by the examples listed above. The project's decision to ignore them was ill-advised. It not only removed from the field of study some of the strongest and potentially most significant data that have been accumulated in the past 20 years; it also greatly weakened the project's conclusions.

No study failing to examine carefully these classic cases from groups of well-qualified witnesses can be regarded as complete or even taken seriously.

MEMBERSHIP RATES INCREASE

In response to the recent emergency appeal, the overwhelming suggestion was that we raise our dues to cover rising costs as well as the heavy expense of our operations. Most people suggested \$10 a year, a few as high as \$15 a year. We have compromised at \$8.00 for the basic U.S. rate. For the past ten years, the rate has been \$5.00; but expenses have mushroomed during that period, and the costs of servicing a large membership have caused a chronic financial squeeze.

As of February 1 NICAP membership (and renewal) rate for the U.S. will be \$8.00 per year, \$15.00 for two years. Renewal payments postmarked no later than February 28 will be accepted at the old rate of \$5.00 per year (or six issues of The U.F.O. Investigator). To take advantage of the old rates, send a renewal payment now.

Due to the cost of postage and currency exchange, membership rate for Canada and Mexico will be \$9.00 a year, \$17.00 for two years; Foreign \$10.00 per year, \$18.00 for two years. Deadline for Canadian, Mexican, and foreign renewals at old rate: March 31.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NICAP headquarters is in need of volunteer office helpers. If you live in the Washington, D. C., area and can contribute some time weekly, please telephone us. Work must be done in the office, but evening and week-end hours can be arranged. Call 667-9434 and ask for Miss Davis.

ASTRONAUT SIGHTINGS UNEXPLAINED

U.S. astronauts, while in orbit around the earth, have made at least three sightings of unusual objects that remain unexplained, according to an astro-physicist on the Colorado UFO Project. Dr. Franklin Roach reports this conclusion in Section III, Chapter 6 of the Condon Report.

Dr. Roach's chapter, titled "Visual Observations Made by U.S. Astronauts," sheds new light on some of the astronaut sightings previously reported in the U.F.O. Investigator. However, it leaves the astronauts' photographs of unexplained objects in a state of confusion.

Beginning on page 204 (Bantam paperback edition) of the Condon Report, Dr. Roach discusses "... three visual sightings made by the astronauts while in orbit which, in the judgement of the writer, have not been adequately explained." Two of these were sightings by astronaut James McDivitt aboard Gemini 4 and one by astronaut Frank Borman on Gemini 7.

To clarify where matters now stand, each Gemini flight which involved unusual sightings is discussed in order. (Excluded is a report from May 1963 that astronaut Gordon Cooper in Mercury 9 saw a green object with a red tail over Australia. The report was denied by Cooper and NASA, and may have resulted from a garbled story of something sighted from the ground in Australia).

GEMINI FLIGHTS INVOLVING UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

| Flight | Astronauts | Launch Date | Landing Date | Sighting |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| GT-4 | McDivitt, White | 3 June 65 | 7 June 65 | (1) cylinder w/ arm-like extension (photo taken); (2) star-like obj. above capsule, polar orbit. |
| GT-7 | Borman, Lovell | 4 Dec 65 | 18 Dec 65 | "Bogey" (unidentified object) above spacecraft, polar orbit. |
| GT-11 | Conrad, Gordon | 12 Sept 66 | 15 Sept 66 | "Large object that was tumbling. . ." (Photo taken). |



PHOTO NO. 1
UFO Sighted by Astronaut McDivitt

Gemini 4 The first sighting by astronaut McDivitt occurred at 3 a.m. (CST) on 4 June 65 somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, according to Dr. Roach. (NASA had earlier pinpointed the location as "over Hawaii.") It was described as a cylinder with an arm-like protuberance. McDivitt reportedly took one still shot of it, plus black & white movie film. After first denying that anything showed up on film, NASA released a photograph consisting of three movie frames showing an oval object with what looks like a trail of some kind. (See photo No. 1; one frame of NASA photo no. 65-H1013).

On behalf of the Condon committee, Dr. Roach interviewed McDivitt and learned that he did not think the photographs were of the objects he had seen. McDivitt later examined the films himself, and reportedly found a hazy image which he thought might be the object. (The photo has not been released). McDivitt felt that he "probably" saw another satellite, but Dr. Roach questions this explanation. NORAD (Air Force) later explained the sighting as the Pegasus satellite, some 1200 miles away at the time. However, McDivitt personally doubted this explanation, and Dr. Roach, upon analyzing NORAD data, was unable to find any satellite which could explain it.

The second sighting by McDivitt, according to Dr. Roach, occurred after GT-4 had been in orbit about 51 hours. McDivitt reported seeing a bright, star-like object passing *above* the capsule (lowest point of GT-4 orbit 100 statute miles), apparently in a south to north orbit. No mention is made of a photograph in connection with this sighting.

Borman Spots "Bogey"

Gemini 7 At the start of the second orbit of GT-7 on 4 December 1965, astronaut Frank Borman radioed a report to Houston flight control center that he was observing a "bogey at 10 o'clock high," flying in formation with the spacecraft. The transcript, quoted by Dr. Roach, indicates that Borman was asked to clarify and repeated that this was an "actual sighting" of something other than the GT-7 booster rocket, which was visible separately at the 2 o'clock position. Also visible off the left side of the capsule were hundreds of particles apparently in polar orbit.

No description of the unidentified object is given, nor does Dr. Roach mention any photographs taken by Borman or Lovell. Again, Dr. Roach is unable to account for the observation in terms of known satellites or stray fragments (all tracked and logged by NORAD).

NBC News on Friday night, January 10, showed the photo which NASA had identified as taken by McDivitt (see photo No. 1), and another photograph identified as taken by astronaut Frank Borman from Gemini 7. This apparently was an error of identification, and was actually the object photographed from Gemini 11 (see below).

(Continued on Page 5)



PHOTO NO. 2
Unknown Photographed from Gemini 11

Gemini 11 On the 18th orbit of GT-11, over Tananarive, Madagascar, astronaut Charles Conrad reported "a large object that was tumbling at about 1 r.p.s. . . I guess he [the object] could have been anything from our ELSS [extravehicular life support system] to something else. We took pictures of it." Two of the pictures appear as plates 17 & 18 in the Condon Report (See photo No. 2). Next day, according to Dr. Roach, NORAD identified the object as the Russian Proton III satellite, at the time "more than 450 kilometers" from the capsule. Although Proton III was estimated to be only 4 meters in diameter (its booster rocket about 10 meters in largest dimension), Dr. Roach does not dispute this interpretation. His analysis distinguished "four distinct objects" in the photographs which he concludes were "multiple pieces of Proton III including possibly its booster plus two other components." The Russian research satellite re-entered the atmosphere 16 September 1966, the day after GT-11 landed. (NICAP Note: A scientist has computed that an object 10 meters in diameter 450 km distant would be 1/10 of a minute of arc in angular size. Normal visual acuity under favorable conditions can only distinguish an object 2 minutes of arc or larger; in other words, something 20 times larger than Proton III would have appeared).

This totals at least four unusual sightings and two (possibly three) photographs or film clips, all within the space of 15 months in 1965 and 1966.

WHAT HAPPENED TO CASE MATERIAL?

Significant Data Omitted

Another major defect of the Colorado Project was the meager use it made of the enormous reservoir of case material available to it. Over the 20 years preceding the project, between 10,000 and 15,000 UFO sighting reports had been recorded. Yet the report treats only 50 cases from this period, or 1/2 of 1% of the available material.

The March 1966 wave, chiefly in Michigan, received nation-wide publicity and was the immediate cause of the establishment of the Colorado Project. Hundreds of sightings were recorded, including many by police officers; but *not one* of the Michigan 1966 cases is examined in the Report. One case in particular from this period, a March 31 sighting near Kalamazoo, Michigan, in which a disc-like UFO, inches above the highway, maneuvered around the witness's car, buffeting it violently, was furnished to the Project, at Mr. Low's specific request, immediately after the Project began. The case, although it certainly warranted careful examination, does not appear in the Report.

The sighting wave of July-September 1965, which touched off countless editorials critical of the Air Force, also involved hundreds of reports. Only three are treated in the Report. The radar case of August 2 in Wichita, Kansas, "may probably" be due to false radar returns; associated visual sightings "may have been enhanced" by temperature inversions. Analysis of the Heflin photographs of August 3 in Santa Ana, California is inconclusive. The August 8 photographs in Beaver, Pennsylvania, are considered a probable hoax. Among the omitted cases are the remarkable close-range sighting near Damon, Texas (Sept. 3) by two sheriffs (furnished to the Project both by NICAP and by Dr. J. E. McDonald). The sightings at Exeter, N. H., of the same date and later, are briefly mentioned but not analyzed.

One of the most extraordinary sighting waves of all time, in November 1957, is scarcely explored at all. A previously unpublished radar case from Blue Book files is presented, which occurred November 4, 1957, at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico, but at least 118 sightings were reported that November (see *The UFO Evidence*, pp. 163-67), and 20 of these were in New Mexico and the adjacent Texas panhandle; none are referred to in the Report.

The wave of summer 1952 is similarly neglected. It included a large number of puzzling radar-visual sightings by the Air Force and the FAA, and jet pursuits of UFOs. The Report discusses only five cases, with "explanations" that are subject to challenge (some will be disputed in a later NICAP report). A major omission is the classic sighting (July 14, 1952) by two Pan-American Airways pilots, who saw 8 discs moving in formation at high speeds over Newport News; this case was recommended to the Project both by NICAP and by Dr. McDonald. Important radar-visual jet pursuit cases on July 23 (Massachusetts), July 26 (California), and July 29 (Michigan) are omitted.

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

The University of Colorado spent over half a million dollars of taxpayers' money (\$525,905) on what was supposed to be a "scientific investigation of UFOs." But now, in order to read the final report, the taxpayer must either pay an additional two dollars to a commercial publisher (Bantam Books, paperback edition), with royalties going to the University, or must pay even more, directly to the University, for the hard-cover edition.

If this money had been spent on studies of important past cases and on useful field investigations, we might be nearer to a scientific resolution of the UFO problem. It was not so spent. Very little of the Colorado funds and effort went toward studying hard-core significant reports from credible observers (see item on "Omissions" elsewhere in this issue).

Where *did* the money go? The following table indicates how four large chunks of it were spent. (The "Number of Pages" column refers to the original report.)

| Expenditure Sub-Contract | Condon Report | No. of Pages | Cost |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Stanford Research Institute, for state-of-the-art study & literature search on optics and radar | Sec. VI, Chaps. 4 & 5 | 158 | \$ 50,000 |
| 2. Raytheon Corporation, for photo-analysis. | p. 50 | | 30,000 |
| 3. Caravan Surveys, for public opinion poll | Sec. III, Chap. 7 | 48 | 29,750 |
| 4. Samuel Rosenberg, for "UFOs in History" chapter | Sec. V, Chap. 1 | 31 | 3,200 |
| TOTALS | | 230 | \$112,950 |

(References in *UFOs? Yes!*, Saunders & Harkins, p. 131-2)

The costly Stanford report merely duplicates existing information; the literature on radar and optics is accessible elsewhere to scientists and is well known. By the terms of the sub-contract SRI was specifically exempted from confronting *any* specific case histories.

The Raytheon sub-contract for \$30,000 apparently went for nothing, since there is no evidence in the Condon Report of where and how the funds were spent. The report mentions (p. 50) an analysis, done by Raytheon in cooperation with NICAP, of a photographic case which NICAP had already, independently, evaluated as a probable hoax. This case happened to include sufficient data for photo-grammetry (geometrical analysis), and the photos were loaned to Raytheon by NICAP for the purpose of a *demonstration of photogrammetric techniques* while Raytheon was trying to obtain a sub-contract with the project. This analysis was published by Raytheon in June 1967 (copy in NICAP files). It should not have cost the Project a cent. Yet this is the only indication in the Report of what the Project might have obtained from Raytheon for its \$30,000. (Raytheon appears in the acknowledgments but is not even listed in the Index to the Report.)

The public opinion poll (item 3), according to Dr. Saunders, carried out the recommendation by Robert J. Low, in his notorious memo of August 1966, that "... the proper investigation of UFOs is to study the people who report them." Naturally, it sheds no light on the real problem.

The chapter on "UFOs in History" merely recounts myths and legends, much of the material coming from dubious sources. It ignores the entire 1896-97 wave of "airship reports." (See Lore-Deneault, *Mysteries of the Skies*, Prentice-Hall 1968.) For this the Project paid \$3200, or about \$100 per typewritten page, to a self-styled professional "trivialist." (Saunders & Harkins, p. 131)

(Continued on Page 8)

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

From the Condon Report

THE CASE FOR THE UFOs

In direct contradiction to the negative conclusions of the Condon report, its own pages contain data that make a strong case for UFOs. Although the report is padded with superficially impressive "background studies" (see separate sections) and with weak case material whose justification for inclusion is unclear, the reports that were actually examined in some detail contain about 20 percent that are unexplained. This is approximately seven times larger than comparable figures given by the U. S. Air Force.

Even more important than this percentage, however, is the nature of the unexplained reports. For 12 years NICAP's main thesis has been that unidentified, structured objects which may be of extraterrestrial origin are present in our skies, and it has been said repeatedly that one unimpeachable photograph would prove this thesis. Now the report analyzes pictures of a structured object photographed over McMinnville, Oregon, in 1950, finds no reason to reject either of the two pictures, and classifies the objects as "unidentified." Also analyzed is the sighting and photograph by astronaut James McDivitt on June 4, 1965, of a cylinder with a structured arm-like projection. The report's conclusion: "unexplained."

Impressive Reports Examined

A minimum of 17 cases of a total of less than a hundred in the report are listed as unidentified. These include three astronaut sightings; one photograph case; five radar cases, with all but one including visual observations; and two electro-magnetic (E-M) effect reports. Military and commercial pilots were among the witnesses in six of the cases and police officers in two others. Six cases occurred during the period of Colorado's investigations.

The following cases from the report offer puzzling evidence that something unexplained is visiting our air spaces. These, without considering hundreds of others excluded from the Colorado study, constitute sufficient support for further scientific study. It is impossible to understand how the project, confronted by these reports from its own files, could conclude that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby."

* June 4 and 5 and December 4, 1965. Three U.S. astronauts observe and photograph UFOs (see details and photos, page 4) while in earth orbit. The Condon report finds that these "three unexplained sightings . . . are a challenge to the analyst." (204-8.)

Radar-Visual Sightings

* August 13-14, 1956. Lakenheath, England. One unexplained object was tracked by air traffic control radar operators at two USAR-RAF stations while other round, white, fast-moving UFOs were seen visually. RAF fighter planes attempted interception. One pilot reported tracking an object on radar as the UFO circled behind his plane and paced it for about 10 minutes. The pilot performed evasive maneuvers in an attempt to lose the object. Of this case, Colorado concluded that the "probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high." (248-56.)

* September 19-20, 1957. Ft. Worth, Texas. An Air Force major was piloting a bomber when he saw a UFO that was also tracked on ground flight control radar. After alerting his crew, the pilot said they saw a white object that crossed in front of the aircraft, then moved to the right at speeds far exceeding those of ordinary planes. The UFO disappeared from view, but the plane's radar continued to track it. Then the mysterious craft also disappeared from the radar scope but reappeared later on both the ground radar and plane scopes and visually. As the aircraft closed, the UFO suddenly vanished from both radar and visual observation. The Colorado project said it could not identify "the phenomenon encountered." (260-66.)

Pilot Reports

* November 14, 1956, and August 30, 1957. Jackson, Alabama and near Norfolk, Virginia. Viscount Captain W. J. Hull and co-pilot Peter MacIntosh were flying over central Alabama on the evening of November 14, 1956, when they saw an object that "abruptly halted" and hovered in front of their aircraft.

The UFO began to dart "hither and yon, rising and falling in undulating flight, making sharper turns than any known aircraft, sometimes changing direction 90 degrees in an instant." After about 30 seconds, the object stopped and hovered again. Then it "began another series of crazy gyrations" and "shot out over the Gulf of Mexico . . . at . . . a fantastic speed." On August 30, 1957, Captain Hull was again piloting a Viscount, this time over the Chesapeake Bay, near Norfolk, Virginia, when he saw a brilliant object that "flew fast and then abruptly halted 20 miles in front of us." Both the Viscount and another aircraft, a DC-6, got radar returns from the UFO. The object, Captain Hull reported, "dissolved right in front of my eyes and the crew . . . lost it from the [radar] scope at the same time." The Condon team said "these two cases must be considered as unknowns." (127-29.)

* June 23, 1955. Near Utica, N.Y. A pilot and co-pilot of a Mohawk Airlines DC-3 reported a gray, round UFO with portholes emitting a blue-green light that traveled at "great speed." Two other planes also reported seeing the object and radar tracked it flying east over Boston. The Mohawk pilot computed the UFO's speed between 4,500 and 4,800 m.p.h. Colorado concluded that this "is a most intriguing report that must certainly be classed as an unknown pending further study, which it certainly deserves." (143.)

* May 13, 1967. Colorado Springs, Colorado. A UFO was first tracked on radar as a Braniff flight touched down at the airport. Then the object turned east and flew over the field at an altitude of about 200 feet. "This must remain as one of the most puzzling radar cases on record, and no conclusion is possible. . .," the report stated. (310-16.)

UFO Swoops Down on Witness

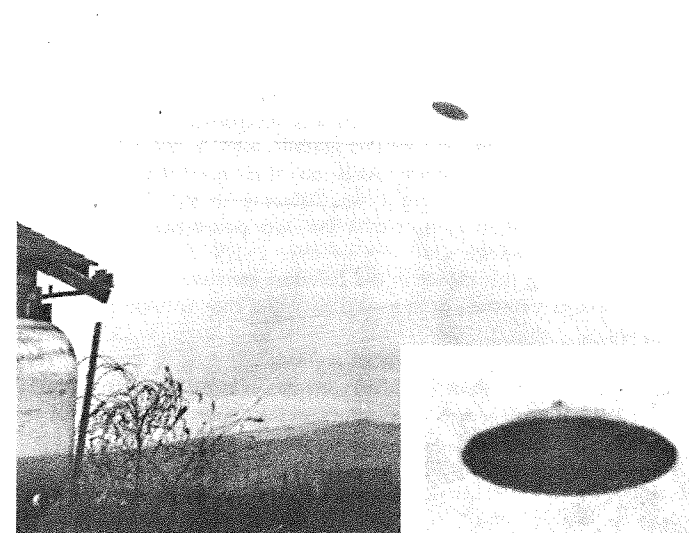
* April 22, 1966. Beverly, Massachusetts. A football-shaped UFO with flashing red lights frightened witnesses and caused interference with TV reception. The observers saw three red lights. One was erratically moving over a school building while the others played tag with it. As the nearest object made a closer approach, the frightened observers saw it was a metal disc, as big as a large car, flat on the bottom and round. The UFO flew 20-30 feet over the head of one witness, then tilted and again flew over the school. Two police officers arrived and saw the object maneuvering over the school building. "No explanation is attempted to account for the close UFO encounter reported. . .," the Colorado report reads. (266-70.)

* August 19, 1966. Donnybrook, North Dakota. The witness was driving when he observed a metallic, tilted disc with a dome on top descend to about 10 feet from the ground with a "falling leaf" motion. It then rose and hovered over a reservoir. After about a minute, it moved to a field and descended to "within a few feet of the ground." The disc tilted again and disappeared rapidly "with a whooshing sound." The witness reported his car radio had ceased functioning during the sighting but returned to normal after the UFO disappeared. Two groups of three depressions each and "recently displaced" rocks were discovered at the site of the near-landing. The Condon team said it could not find an explanation for this sighting. (It is interesting to note that Robert Low was one of the investigators on this case.) (273-74.)

* January 1967. New Richmond, Michigan. At 2 a.m., a woman saw a brightly illuminated object just over her car. It remained over the automobile and paced it for 10 or 15 minutes, but the car would not accelerate. The witness said she felt she was somehow being controlled by the object. The UFO "made a big check mark in the sky" and rapidly disappeared. Colorado rather curiously concluded: "The case remains interesting but unexplained." (282-85.)

Photographs Declared Authentic

* May 11, 1950. McMinnville, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trent saw a bright, metallic UFO with a superstructure. As it tipped up, the witnesses "felt a gust of wind. . ." Mr. Trent took two photographs within 30 seconds (see photograph below). The object moved fast toward the west just after the second photograph was taken. The McMinnville "Telephone Register" examined the pictures and declared them authentic. "Life" magazine also ran the photographs as presumably genuine. The Colorado investigator said the Trents were "very industrious farm people" whose veracity was attested to by "various reputable individuals." The investigator concluded in the Condon report that all factors in the case "appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses." (396-406.)



UFO "Evidently Artificial"—Condon Report

Other unidentified cases in the report include three sightings in Joplin, Missouri, and southeast Kansas on January 13, 1967 (286-90); an observation at Granville, Massachusetts, two days later (285-86); a report from Winchester, Conn., on September 9, 1967; and a sighting over Concordia, Kansas, on December 5, 1967. (391-940.)

THE DISSENTERS

There was immediate dissent from the report by a Congressman, scientists, news media personnel and NICAP members.

In a U.S. House of Representatives floor speech, Congressman William F. Ryan (D-NY) attacked the project's findings, saying they "may result in delaying an eventual solution of the UFO puzzle, making more difficult a scientific breakthrough in an understanding of the problem." He added that it "is the duty and responsibility of the House Science and Astronautics Committee to review and hold hearings on the University of Colorado UFO report and its implications."

Dr. James E. McDonald, of the University of Arizona and probably the most knowledgeable scientist on the UFO subject, stated that the report "must be vigorously challenged lest it succeed in cutting off serious scientific attention to a matter of extremely great importance." Dr. McDonald also held a "special colloquium" at his university criticizing the report and stated that the National Academy of Science's "approval of the scope and methodology underlying the Condon Report is not justified and will become a serious source of future embarrassment. . ." to that prestigious scientific body.

Simultaneously with the release of the report, Dr. David R. Saunders' book, *UFOs? Yes!*, was published. Dr. Saunders, one of the two scientists fired from the project for opposing Dr. Condon's views, made it clear that the indifference of the project's director and coordinator and their inadequate research administration went far toward scuttling the project.

AIAA Conducts Investigation

A special UFO Committee of the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA), the largest non-governmental aerospace agency in the world and chaired by Dr. Joachim P. Kuettner, of Boulder's ESSA Research Laboratories, was established. The 10-man scientific committee stated that it "has made its own objective investigation of the [UFO] subject and . . . plans to develop certain recommendations and to give some insight into its reasoning. . ." The committee concluded that the UFO "controversy cannot be resolved without further study in a quantitative scientific manner and . . . it deserves the attention of the engineering and scientific community."

A "Joint Statement by Scientists," released by NICAP, brought strong support from scientists in various fields, including aerospace, psychology, physics, chemistry, botany, sociology and biology. Because of "continuing reports from reputable . . . and competent witnesses. . ." about 50 scientists signed a statement urging "an appropriate committee of the Congress to initiate an investigation of . . . UFOs."

News media personnel were also not accepting the report.

Nationally syndicated columnists Roscoe and Geoffrey Drummond told NICAP that the Condon report had not settled the question. There are enough "sufficient, creditable sighting reports" that leave the UFO question "still open," they said. They added that the "Condon report should be read with great care as to its credibility." The father and son team supported future scientific investigation, despite the report's recommendation to the contrary.

Newspapers Protest

The State, South Carolina's largest newspaper, has carried a number of positive editorials in past years. In a recent one entitled "A Study That Wasn't," the newspaper stated that the Colorado findings "may be instantly repudiated. . ." The paper also praised NICAP as "the most sober and efficient of the private [UFO] organizations" and attacked Condon and Low as being "increasingly hostile to those who insisted on a strictly objective approach." The editorial concluded that "the public could place more confidence in . . . [Colorado's] findings if it were not positively known, as is the case, that the Condon group first arrived at this [negative] conclusion and then went through the motions of assembling the evidence almost as an afterthought."

The New York Daily News also dissented. "The study. . ." it said, "has been under fire from the start as allegedly rigged to bring in the verdict the Air Force wanted. Let's keep our minds open on UFOs. . ."

An editorial in the Knoxville, Tennessee, Journal indicated that the public will give the report little credence. The paper stated that it was the unknown cases in the project's findings that "raise concern."

Letters of protest are also beginning to pour in from NICAP members. One mechanical engineer wrote his Congressman that "the American people deserve more for their tax money than to be deluded. . ."

FALSE STATEMENTS

False statements misquoting the Director and ridiculing NICAP have appeared in two syndicate features and several editorials. NEA reporter Tom Tiede falsely quoted the Director as admitting strong evidence for "little green men." William Hines (Science Service) attacked NICAP, accusing us of publishing sensational paperbacks and living on donations from "excitable old ladies."

Indignant members have already indicated their help in exposing untrue statements in—or caused by—the Condon report. We hope every member who feels this indignation will back us every way possible in this fight. With your help in making it known, nationwide, we can win.

The Condon Report is now available in paperback, titled: **SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.** Conducted by the University of Colorado under Research Contract No. F44620-67-C-0035 with the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Edward U. Condon, Project Director. Introduction by Walter Sullivan, Bantam paperback YZ-4747. January, 1969. 965 pp. \$1.95. Page references in this issue of the Investigator refer to the Bantam edition.

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NICAP CHALLENGES COLORADO UNIVERSITY REPORT ON UFOs

"The University of Colorado UFO Project report fails to examine hundreds of important sightings from credible witnesses," according to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a Washington-based private organization. The project was headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon and its report was made public in January.

Yet the report itself, NICAP said, despite the overwhelming amount of ignored evidence, "contains data that makes a strong case for UFOs," including unexplained sightings by astronauts, radar-visual reports, a photograph of a structured object, and cases in which physical effects were reported.

"At least 20% of the less than 100 cases in the report are listed as unidentified," NICAP pointed out. "And many of the so-called 'explained' cases are explained in a way that strains the imagination."

In its current bi-monthly newsletter released today, The UFO Investigator, NICAP severely criticized the project for allegedly ignoring "20 years of accumulated testimony" in writing off UFOs as unworthy of further scientific study. "A major defect," said NICAP, "was the meager use it made of the enormous reservoir of case material available to it. Over the 20 years preceding the project, between 10,000 and 15,000 UFO sighting reports had been recorded. Yet the report treats only 50 cases from this period, or $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the available material."

NICAP also claimed that \$113,000 or more of the project's \$526,000 budget was wasted on duplicating knowledge already available. Raytheon Corporation, NICAP said, apparently was paid \$30,000 for photo-analysis work, none of which appears in the final report.

"Dr. Condon accused NICAP of tellings its members the project was merely a 'whitewash,'" a spokesman said, "but anyone who examines our publications will see that we defended the project against its critics until it became clear that a biased, non-objective investigation was being conducted. We gave them the benefit of the doubt at every turn. Then when it became obvious they had failed to accomplish a thorough review, we withdrew our support and published the facts."

Summing up the organization's position, a spokesman stated, "It would be a tragedy if the Condon report is accepted as the final answer to UFOs. The project's directors obviously were biased, over-emphasized crackpot stories, looked at serious reports very superficially, and padded their final report with irrelevant material. We will continue to press for a scientific study."

Strong support for a continued scientific investigation was indicated in a "Joint Statement by Scientists," released by NICAP. At least 50 highly qualified scientists signed a statement urging "an appropriate committee of the Congress to initiate an investigation of... UFOs."