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1966: Unidentified Flying Objects, July (folder B48-28)
Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers

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LEG.

UFO

(PHIELSCHIEFFER)

RE: COST OF BLUE
BOOK

July 15, 1966

Mr. Ray Phielschieffer
1537 3rd Avenue North
Texas City, Texas 77590

Dear Mr. Phielschieffer:

Thank you for your letter of July 8th enclosing the photos regarding UFOs. I was interested to see these but as you know my main concern has been that a Congressional investigation be held and a report be made fully available to the public rather than trying to become an authority myself on this subject. Nevertheless, I am pleased that you sent the photos.

Regarding the questions that you asked, I do not have these figures on hand so I have written to Air Force Headquarters here, requesting an answer to your questions and asking for a copy of the regulations that you wanted to have.

As soon as I have a reply, I will be writing you again.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUL 29 1966

Dear Mr. Ford:

Recently you requested information on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in behalf of Mr. Ray Phielschiefter, Texas City, Texas.

Funds are not appropriated or specifically identified in budget estimates for the investigation of UFO reports. Since this effort is accomplished by temporary diversion of resources and is incidental when compared to the over-all command operation, the Air Force has not established a separate accounting system to identify the costs associated with the investigation of UFO reports. Consequently, we are unable to answer Mr. Phielschiefter's questions regarding this aspect of our program.

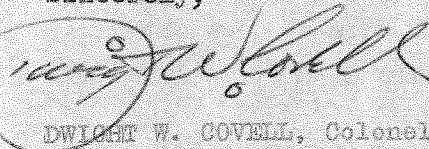
Air Force Regulation 200-2, Unidentified Flying Objects, governs the conduct of the UFO program. The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidance to Air Force personnel on investigating and preparing UFO reports and releasing information.

The purpose of Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication (JANAP) 146 is to provide uniform instructions for the peacetime reporting of what is judged to be vital intelligence sightings. It deals in UFOs only as a catch-all class of sighting that does not fall into a recognized category such as ships, submarines, aircraft, or missiles.

Both of the above publications are for internal use and guidance only and are not available for distribution to the general public. Mr. Phielschiefter may peruse these publications at any Air Force base.

If we may advise you further, please call on us.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT W. COVELL, Colonel, USAF
Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives

8/2/66: Copy to Mr. P.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

SusenseE

"p"

(CHAPMAN, J. M.)

RE: QUESTION
BY PHIELSCHIEFER

July 15, 1966

Colonel John M. Chapman
Chief, Air Force Liaison Office
6656 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Chapman:

Enclosed is a letter that I have received requesting certain information about Air Force's "Project Blue Book" and also asking for a copy of a certain Air Force regulation.

I would appreciate any assistance that you could give that would be helpful in answering his questions and providing him with the copy of the regulation he wishes to have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

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Dear Congressman Ford:

July 8, 1966

Thank you for answering my letter and sending me the information. I appreciate it very much.

I am certainly glad to hear that the air force is going to let some of our leading universities make an investigation of UFO sightings. Knowing the air force and the way in which it has kept important UFO facts from the American people, I am inclined to believe that the air force will not do as it said it will do. Of course, I could be wrong, and I most certainly hope that I am.

I am enclosing a packet of photos. I hope that you will find these interesting.

Could you answer me the following questions?

① How much money does the air force spend per UFO report that it investigates?

② How much money has the air force spent on it?

to date?

I have been trying to get a copy of air force regulation 200-2 and JANAP 146 (B) but have been unable to do so. Do you think you could get a copy of these orders for me? If so, I will be forever in your debt. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Ray Chieschifter

Ray Chieschifter
1577 3rd Ave N.
Texas City, Texas 77590

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(JACOBSON, J.)

RE: BOOK

July 25, 1966

Mr. James G. Jacobson
140 N. Louise
Glendale, California 91206

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of July 21st regarding UFOs and about the object that was sighted crashing into a river in Brazil.

As you know, there are more than 600 unexplained sightings of which this is undoubtedly one, and for this reason I have called for a Congressional investigation of these sightings so that all the facts might be known to the public.

I appreciate having your specific recommendations about the CIA making an attempt to recover whatever it was that did crash into the river.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

July 21, 1966

The Hon. Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford

You have shown concern lately
about proper investigation of UFO's.

I have read in a book "Strangers From
The Skies" by Brad Steiger, Award Books, 1966
Published by Universal Publishing & Distribution
Corp., 800 Second Ave., N.Y., N.Y.

I can't say much for the accuracy
and depth of reporting of the book but there
is one article which is of interest if there
is only the slightest chance of its being
true. On pages 83-86 a report is given of
a U.F.O. that was observed by many people
to have developed ~~great~~ trouble and crashed
into the Paroparia River in ^{the} Sao Paulo
province of Brazil. It was not found

by amateur searchers presumably
because of the deep mud in the river.
I feel the U.F.O. should be searched
for by some U.S. organization like the
C.I.A. or some other group who can
marshal the proper equipment to
search the mud for the supposed
U.F.O. with embarrassing the U.S. government
through an open search because of the
likely failure to find anything.

Sincerely yours

James M. Jacobson

140 W. Louise

Glendale 6, Calif.

91206

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(RELYEA, HC)

RE: CONG.
INVEST.

July 26, 1966

Mr. Harold C. Relyea
23 Elm Street
Camden, New York 13316

Dear Mr. Relyea:

This is just a note to thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of July 22nd to Representative Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, in support of my proposal for a Congressional investigation of UFOs.

Your support is certainly appreciated.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

July 22, 1966

Hon. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Chairman Rivers:

During the past four weeks I have been concerned with a phenomenon commonly known as unidentified flying objects and for various reasons, which I elaborate below, I began researching this topic. My interest in this phenomenon was stimulated by the recent Michigan sightings and the request for a congressional investigation by Congressman Gerald Ford. By profession I am a political scientist and, like many other Americans, I have read accounts in the press concerning UFO's and have heard about them but I have never really given the topic such consideration.

Recent events, as indicated below, have changed my attitude toward this matter and, in view of the fact that your committee has held hearings on the matter, I would like to obtain further information and comment. I am also addressing my remarks to Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, in the hope that he too will comment on this matter.

First, I believe any investigation by congress should be on a bi-partisan basis as I believe this matter merits cooperation between both parties in obtaining facts and substantial data which can, and must, be presented to the American people.

Second, in view of the fact that this Congress has just ratified and made into law a bill concerning public information and executive agencies, more material than has thus far been given to the American people must be made available. We cannot continue to ignore or stifle inquiry into this matter. The Congressmen and Senators of this country, as well as their President, believe information held by certain executive agencies should be made available to the people. Does this include information on this phenomenon? If not, why not? Why does not Congress, the appropriating agency of our government, know more about this matter than they have thus far indicated?

Thirdly, I understand the whole investigatory matter has been turned over to a pilot university who's faculty will investigate the matter on a part-time basis, allotting certain sections of the inquiry to cooperating university faculties, including about seven in all. I understand that this investigation is being conducted on a grant basis with the Department of the Air Force. In connection with this type of investigation let me point out two hurdles. First, as Jaques Vallee points out in his book, Anatomy of A Phenomenon - a book highly praised by the Air Force, that there exists a "Harvard Syndrome", that is, a certain professional antagonism among astronomers and astrophysicists toward this matter. And secondly, this Air Force contract basis for the investigation, while commendable and very much appreciated, does not offer itself as the best basis for completely empirical work, particularly in the eyes of the American public.

At this point, then, I am strongly advocating a full congressional investigation, either by the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science And Astronautics Committee. While I am not familiar with Chairman Miller's role as a congressional leader, I am familiar with the fine work conducted by you and the Armed Services Committee. You have already conducted some inquiries and I would urge further investigation, if for no other reason than making the whole question one of public record. My own congressman, Rep. Alexander Pirnie, supports this action, as I am sure many others on the committee do, both Democrats and Republicans.

I would appreciate hearing from you in regard to this matter, as I would also appreciate hearing from Chairman Miller. If your committees have any information which you can afford me I would be most grateful. I am particularly interested in your comments. Thank you for your attention in this matter and your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Copy: Hon. George P. Miller
Hon. Gerald Ford

Harold C. Relyea
83 Elm Street
Garden, New York 13316

COOPY

Brook Beecher
Shady Trail Camp
Northport Michigan

LFO

Dear Honorable Sir

attached file

Thank you very much for your courtesy in replying to my hasty letter. Since I had spent 25 hours preparing a typewritten report for you I did not feel that you properly answered my letter.

The last letter you sent me was complete and informative. With all the details I believe you know of.

Thank you for your well written and informative letter. The questions I've asked you are complete. Thank you very much. Your friend Brook Beecher.

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(BEECHER, E.)

RR:H STUDY

July 8, 1966

Mr. Brook Beecher
Shady Trails Camp
The University of Michigan
Northport, Michigan 49670

Dear Mr. Beecher:

Thank you for your recent letter. I am afraid that I still do not know what university will be chosen to receive the grant and conduct the investigation. We have checked with the Air Force just days ago and they still have no word as to what university will be chosen.

I am sorry that you feel I did not answer your letter correctly about what is being done and what is my opinion of the present situation is. I gave you as much information as I have, that is, the Air Force has now decided to choose a university that will receive a grant to study the unexplained sightings and then in turn will choose five other universities to assist on a geographical basis. As to my opinion of the present situation--I would have hoped for more of a Congressional investigation than the one day of hearings that was held by the House Committee on Armed Services, but I feel that the present course of action is a step in the right direction.

I regret that I cannot give you more information at the present time or give you more of an opinion about the present situation but that is simply all the information that I have at the present time. I want to be sure that any investigation will be objective and that a report will be made fully available to the public, and all indications are that this will be true of the university study.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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Beecher's "the" Family Resort

on Clearwater Lake . . . ANNANDALE, MINNESOTA

"Where Parents with Children can enjoy vacationing together."

Honorable G. R. Ford

Jan 3

Dear Honorable Sir,

I am thanking you for your return reply to my letter on 1/10/50. ^{still don't know} But when you mentioned a college was going to investigate the situation what college will do this? The harsh rules thrust upon fines + imprisonment is hardly worth their ~~the~~ time (that is) the way they treat the sightings as mirages + hoaxes. I felt you did not properly answer my letter correctly about what is being done and what is your opinion of the present situation. Please clear this up for me. Thank you we'll be waiting to hear from you your friend Brook Beecher

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(RELYEA, H. C.)

RE: STUDY

July 14, 1966

Mr. Harold C. Relyea
23 Elm Street
Camden, New York 13316

Dear Mr. Relyea:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of July 13th regarding UFOs. You say that over the past four weeks you have been reading books about this subject; I am pleased to know of your interest in these matters. I must admit that I did not have a deep interest in the subject until the sightings occurred in Michigan and it became apparent that several Michigan people are very concerned about this matter as well as many others across the country.

Although I have not read the books you mention, many of those who have written to me about flying saucers have mentioned them. As you may know, shortly after the Michigan sightings, I called for a Congressional investigation of UFOs, writing to the chairmen of the House Committees on Science and Astronautics and on Armed Services. As a result of this action, the House Committee on Armed Services did hold one day of hearings. Enclosed are some of the press releases that I issued at that time. The Armed Services hearings were published and although I no longer have copies of these hearings, you may still be able to obtain them by writing to the committee.

As you will note from my statements, I expressed my feelings that the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date.

One result of the hearing was the decision to appoint a committee of independent scientists to study the more than 600 unexplained sightings. It was originally proposed that these scientists would be chosen by the National Academy of Sciences. However a change in plans was made and it was then proposed that a contract would be let to a university after September 1st and that certain members of the faculty would study the unexplained sightings on a part-time basis. Another change in plans was made, and the most recent information we have is that the Air Force will award a grant, not a contract, to one university, which in turn, will select five other universities to assist it in conducting an investigation. The five other universities thus chosen, are also to receive grants for their part in the study. The last news we had was that the "lead" university was to be chosen sometime this month. We have continued to check on the status of this matter but as far as we know at this date no university has yet been selected to become the "lead" university. We were told that this and the other universities would sift through all the evidence, make an objective study and make the results of their report fully available to the public.

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Mr. Harold C. Relyea
July 14, 1966
Page Two

Thus far, we have received no evidence to the contrary that this would be true. Although I have no information as to exactly when the "lead" university will be chosen, I would hope that it would be soon and that the news of the selection would be widely publicized in the news media.

While I had called for a Congressional investigation and still continue to feel that it would be helpful, I also feel that the university study, as it is proposed, would be a step in the right direction and would be a help in bringing this matter out into the open. This is the status of the investigation at present.

While I do not have the facilities to maintain a mailing list to let all of those who have written me know about further developments, I can assure you that I will be issuing statements when significant developments do occur.

I appreciate having your support for my idea of a Congressional investigation and I hope this letter will be useful in keeping you up-to-date on the progress being made in this direction.

I too, hope that you will have helpful replies to the others that you wrote to, as you express this desire in your letter.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

July 13, 1966

House of Representatives
Hon. Gerald Ford
Rayburn Building
Washington D.C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

good, fine

During the last four weeks I have been reading books concerning unidentified flying objects. My interest in this phenomenon was stimulated by activities by these "objects" in your home state, Michigan. Quite frankly, I have never been interested in this matter before. By profession I am a political scientist and, like many other Americans, I have read accounts of UFO's and heard about them on the news but I have never given them much thought.

Well, we will develop interest from time to time

Two facts have changed my indifference toward this phenomenon. First, after reading three books - Donald Keyhoe's Flying Saucers From Outer Space (1953), Edward J. Ruppelt's The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects (1958), and Frank Edwards' Flying Saucers - Serious Business (1966) - I am convinced that our Air Force knows more about these objects than they are revealing to the press and the public. Further, I think the above authors indicate rather clearly that private individuals and public employees have suffered indignation and ridicule when they report sightings of phenomena to the Air Force. This policy of belittling both the phenomenon of UFO's and those who sight them is disgraceful. I realize that many of the reports received are pranks or sightings of known aerial objects. But it must be clear to many government representatives and the people of this country that some kind of aerial objects are entering our air space from a point outside our air space - extra terrestrial or interplanetary - I don't know.

Secondly, the President of the United States has just signed into law a bill for making the records of certain executive agencies available to the public. The Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base/Project Blue Book, all fall under the jurisdiction of this bill. The Congressman and Senators of this country, as well as our President, believe certain information should be made public. Does this include information on this phenomenon? If not, why not? If they do not exist, why the secrecy, why the unanswered letters? Why doesn't Congress, the appropriating financial agent of our government, know more about this phenomenon than they indicate. What happened to your own investigation into this matter announced shortly after the Michigan sightings?

I address this letter to you, to my own congressman who sits on the Armed Services Committee, to my Senators and other concerned servants of the people of this country. I address it to all of you in the hope that each of you will reply to me on this matter. And I address this letter to you not only as a citizen interested in some vague unknown phenomenon, but as an American concerned with having other Americans better informed and knowledgeable of the activities of government and as a professional man interested in promoting truth. It is my sincere hope that you, and your colleagues, will reply at your earliest convenience in regard to this matter.

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Thank you for your interest and attention.

Sincerely,



Harold C. Relyea
23 Elm Street
Camden, New York 13316

Copies:
Hon. Alexander Pirnie
Sen. Jacob K. Javits
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
Presidential Press Secretary
Director - Project Blue Book

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LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(NEWMAN, C. L.)

RE: HEARINGS

July 13, 1966

Mr. Charles L. Newman
220 Main Street
Cold Spring Harbor
Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of July 10th urging me to continue my stand for open Congressional hearings on UFOs. As you may know, as the result of my request the House Committee on Armed Service did hold some hearings. These hearings were published a couple of months ago and I understand that the supply of printed copies is now exhausted. Although these hearings were short in duration, one outcome was the present decision to award grants to six universities to conduct an objective study and make their reports fully available to the public.

One lead university will be chosen to receive a grant and it will in turn pick the five others to assist it, who will also receive grants. While I am not as optimistic as you are about the chances for open Congressional hearings, I will continue to maintain my position that they should be held.

In the meantime, I feel the university study should be a step in the right direction. Thank you for your interest and support.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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220 Main St.
Cold Spring Harbor
Long Island, N.Y.
11724
10th July, 1966

House Minority Leader
Gerald Ford
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

My Honorable Mr. Ford:

I know that you are interested in Unidentified Flying Objects, especially after the sightings in your home state of Michigan. I urge you to continue your stand for open Congressional Hearings on the subject.

I realize that they have already ^{had} closed hearings on UFOS but what the public wants is open hearings so that the public will know what is going on.

It would be interesting to know the outcome of those closed hearings but that we will probably never know.

It seems that the Air Force and the Government is afraid the public will panic if told the truth. How ridiculous! Aren't we already living in the age of the H bomb? We haven't panicked.

It is my belief as it is NICAP'S (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) that the UFOS, are extra-terrestrial spaceships under Intelligent control.

Many people have asked why haven't they contacted us? It could very well be, that they are incapable of contacting us even though they may want to. Or that they are waiting for the opportune moment to do so which is not in my estimation too far off.

We need other men like you of high political ranking who will fight the Air Force's secrecy. But the Air Force is not all to blame. It is somebody higher up capable of making these decisions. Have you ever heard of the 54-20 group in the White House. It is my belief that it ~~this~~ is this group that is responsible.

Keep up the good work and I am sure that soon, we will have these open Congressional Hearings.

Respectfully Yours,

Charles L. Newman
Charles L. Newman

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(HACK, R.)

RE: STUDY

July 14, 1966

Mr. Richard Hack
Perkins Street
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Mr. Hack:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of July 12th. I am glad to hear that you support my proposal of a full and open Congressional hearing on the matter of UFOs.

I am also pleased to have your comments about several articles that you have noticed that have reference to this topic, especially the one by Clare Booth Luce, as she called here when she was gathering information for the article and sent us a complimentary copy.

I was also interested in the quotation by Dr. Hynek. However in correspondence I have had with him, he has expressed this interest in a full and open investigation to be performed by others than the Air Force. In fact I believe it was he that made the suggestion during the one day of hearings that the Committee on Armed Services held, that an independent panel of scientists should be chosen.

Being unfamiliar with all the circumstances surrounding the Heflin sighting, I would not know whether a month would be an unreasonable amount of time to take to conduct an investigation of this sighting. In some circumstances it might be granted that a longer period of investigation might be conducive to more thorough study and greater significance in results.

Regarding the reports in the Southwest, you will note in my letter to the chairmen of the House Committees on Armed Services and on Science and Astronautics that I feel these sightings cannot be easily explained away as planets such as Jupiter or Venus. I appreciate your suggestion that I check with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena here in Washington and you will be pleased to know that I have had extensive correspondence as well as phone calls with the staff and directors of the Committee as well as with many of their membership across the country. I assure you that I am indeed solidly behind the idea of having Congressional hearings and will continue to be so. However, as you may know the latest development is that grants are to be made to six universities to conduct an independent study of the sightings. I am sorry that I do not have any more information to give you at present, but as far as we know,

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Richard Hack
rerkins Street
Bristol, Conn. 06010
July 12, 1966

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator:

I have read with enjoyment your comments on unidentified flying objects in the national press, and I heartily agree that the time is past due for a Congressional investigation. And not just a short preliminary hearing, but a full, open-doors, searching exposure of the entire situation. *Had you support*

I have gleaned certain items from several articles I have read here and there which I believe you should know. I urge you to bring these incidents to the attention of your colleagues and/or the appropriate committee.

1. The first is taken from an article on UFOs by Clare Booth Luce, in McCall's. She backs an investigation, and reports that she has heard that Blue Book consists of one major (Major Quintanella, the chief) and a sergeant. And that this is very inadequate, as I am sure you will agree.

2. The second is an admission by Dr. J. Allan Hynek before the Committee on Armed Services that "enough puzzling sightings have been reported...to warrant closer attention than Project Blue Book can possibly encompass." Doubtless, you have read this. And this state of affairs exists concerning one of the most obviously important subjects on the world scene today!

On August 3, 1965, Rex Heflin photographed a UFO in Calif. It took the Air Force a month after the story was released in the papers to get around to questioning Heflin. Now, even if they happened to be busy at the time, a month is still out of the question. And why does the Air Force repeatedly state they conduct a scientific investigation when they dally so long in questioning witnesses?

The fact that the project seems to be inefficient in the use of taxpayers' money is bad enough, but consider the solutions offered to baffling cases:

in August, 1965, you undoubtedly read about numerous UFO reports in the Southwest. You may have read about this: The AF explained several sightings as the planet Jupiter, and the stars Aldebaran, Betelgeuse, Capella Rigel, etc. And you may have read the following quote: "Somebody has made a mistake. These stars and planets are on the opposite side of the earth from Oklahoma City at this time of year." That was Robert Risser, director of the Oklahoma Science and Art Foundation planetarium.

That is the kind of thing I urge you to investigate. I suggest you check with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington and see what other examples they can give you. They have hundreds.] *Extensive Correspondence*

There are a great many people in this country who are tired of AF mishandling of the situation. NICAP can show you hundreds of clippings from newspapers, editorials, etc. The Gallup polls say five million Americans have seen unusual objects in the sky. If the AF 10% unexplained statistic holds, that means five hundred thousand UFOs cannot be explained.

The Gallup poll also says fifty million people believe there is something to the UFO situation.

If your whole ^{ARE} life were to be run by politics, you couldn't ignore that many people ^A being cheated out of the truth by a frightened official agency.

You can check up and verify everything I've told you. In fact, I suppose you already have. So I urge you to throw your incalculable political weight behind the fight for hearings.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hack
Richard Hack

P.S. Enclosed find Heflin photograph. NICAP can give you details. It is completely unexplained and very authentic.

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

RE: STUDY

July 12, 1966

Mr. Frank F. Bateman, Jr.
Box 5371 College Station
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Thank you for your letter of July 9th. I accept your apologies, although none were really needed, and I assure you that I genuinely interested in seeing that all the facts are made known about UFOs, that they are carefully examined, and that a full report is made available to the public.

Of course I cannot say at this point what the outcome of the investigation to be made by the six universities, but I every indication that I have is that it will be an objective study and that the results will be fully available to the public.

I think it is important to note that the Air Force is not going to award a contract to any university as stated by AWST but instead one grant will be made to one university which will itself be entirely responsible for the selection of the other universities and consequently the grants they will receive.

I cannot speak in behalf of the investigation to be made by the universities of course, and I would rather not pre-judge the quality of their report until we actually see some results. Your continued interest in seeing that an objective report is to be made is appreciated.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

Box 5371 College Station
Raleigh, North Carolina
July 9, 1966

Hon. Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives
House Office Building

Dear Congressman:

You are entirely correct. In my letter of June 30th which accompanied a typescript on UFOs, I had assumed that, because of your position in the government, you had knowledge of the reasoning behind the Air Force policy of secrecy concerning UFOs and that therefore your public statements were politically motivated and were in no way meant to bring about an objective analysis of the subject, which would have been in conflict with the Air Force policy. From your letter of July 6, I find that I was entirely mistaken. You seem to be as genuinely interested as any UFO-ologist in discovering the cause of the UFO phenomenon and resolving the present controversy. With all sincerity, please accept my humblest apologies for having accused you of false intentions.

I do not consider myself as being narrow minded, which is probably the impression that the letter gave, nor is this the image I wish to convey.

I hope that with any future correspondence, you will not judge it entirely according to the tone of the first letter.

Like many persons outside of politics in this country, I have a strong questioning attitude concerning any statement made by a member of Congress, of the military, or of the executive departments. Also, I have been of the belief that when it comes to the subject of UFOs, Congress is powerless before the Air Force. And, I will readily admit that with such an attitude it is extremely difficult to be objective and that it does at times lead me astray, as happened with the letter of June 30th.

I, like all persons interested in understanding the cause of the UFO phenomenon must be, am extremely thankful for the efforts that you have made and the results of those efforts. I never intended to imply that I was not. However, I felt that if you would defend UFOs before the public, then you should also defend them before Congress. This you did. But, because I was looking for words not action, I failed to grasp this fact. In the future I will have to broaden the scope of my attention.

There is one point which I would like to make concerning the giving of grants to six universities for independent study of the UFO phenomenon (according to your letter of July 6 and the July 4 issue of "Aviation Week and Space Technology"). There are three avenues of approach which can be taken:

1. The selection of universities by the Air Force (AWST stated that the "...USAF hopes to award a contract by September..." whose personnel would be prejudiced against the existence of a UFO phenomenon. For example, if the universities with which Drs. Hynneck and Menzel are associated are chosen, the objectivity of the whole project can be fairly questioned.
2. The selection of universities which have objective personnel but which will be restricted to investigating only existing reports (post event data), that is, they will not be allowed to conduct original scientific research. They will in all probability reach the same conclusion as the Air Force.
3. The selection of universities which will be allowed to scientifically study the phenomenon, that is, attempt real time scientific observations of UFOs (radiological, spectroscopic, etc.) and to reach objective conclusions based on their scientific findings.

From past events, I would say that number one will win out. However, if the Air Force desires to improve its image, number two will win. I am more than likely wrong, and I hope so.

Again, please accept my apologies.

Thanks for your interest.

Sincerely,

Frank F. Bateman, Jr.

Frank F. Bateman, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(BATEMAN, F.)

R:K RE TYPESCRIPT

July 6, 1966

Mr. Frank F. Bateman, Jr.
Box 5371 College Station
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Bateman:

I have received your letter of June 30th with the radio script that you enclosed.

You state that I failed to mention the subject of UFOs on the House floor, and for that reason you believe that my public statements were not what I actually desired.

Of course you are welcome to have your own opinions on this matter, but I did all I personally could, issued five press statements, was successful in getting the House Committee on Armed Services to hold hearings and publish them, and now it is announced that six universities across the country will be given grants to conduct an independent investigation of the unexplained sightings.

I feel I have accomplished more by my demands for a Congressional investigation than was done before, despite what was said or not said on the House floor. Your script is returned with this letter and it has been examined.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

UFO

Box 5371 College Station
Raleigh, North Carolina
June 30, 1966

Hon. Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

Enclosed is a typescript of an April 27 broadcast on Unidentified Flying Objects presented over radio station WKNC in Raleigh, North Carolina.

I have mailed this copy to you for two reasons. First, because you took a positive stand on UFOs during the rash of sightings in your state of Michigan, and second, because you failed to mention the subject on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

I am aware of your busy schedule and cannot expect you to read the typescript, however, if you do, you may find some interesting aspects (scientific) and insights. I personally feel that your public statements on the subject were "for the record" and not what you actually desired. Your lack of any statement on the Floor of the House (according to the Congressional Record) tends to indicate this.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Frank F. Bateman, Jr.

Frank F. Bateman, Jr.

FFB: jr./ak

Enclosure

All I personally could accomplish more than done will continue

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(GROSKOPF, H.)

RE: WHY NO STUDY

July 12, 1966

Mrs. Harvey Groskopf
Hartman,
Arkansas 72840

Dear Mrs. Groskopf:

Thank you for your recent "memo" including quotes from an interview with John G. Fuller and from my letter of May 4th.

I wish to up-date some of the information that was contained in my letter. I am now informed that a grant will be made to one university instead of letting a contract and that that university will choose five others to assist in the study and they will also receive grants after they are selected by the university.

I feel that the matter of getting all the information we can about these UFOs is important and if Mr. Fuller feel it is important too, that is fine. I do not know what tremendous fabrications of the Air Force Mr. Fuller is referring thus I cannot comment on the motives behind the awarding of grants to universities to make an independent study.

You ask why Congress itself does not conduct an investigation. As you know this is the action that I called for and as a result, the House Committee on Armed Services did hold one day of hearings and publish them. I have continued to urge a Congressional investigation but as you know, my party has been outnumbered by 2-to-1 in both the House and the Senate since the 1964 election. Perhaps there was not enough public support for this position--you may wish to pose this question to those in power to make this decision.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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Memo

July 8, 1966

John G. Fuller, author of the recently published "INCIDENT AT KIXTER", in an interview on the TODAY TV program this morning:

"The Airforce has become involved in tremendous fabrications (concerning UFOs) by trying to explain away things they can't explain."

From a letter dated May 4, 1966 received from Representative Gerald R. Ford (Mich):

"My main concern has been that an impartial investigation be made of the unexplained sightings and that the facts revealed by this inquiry be made fully available to the public. While I had felt that a Congressional investigation would best serve this purpose, the House Committee on Armed Services has decided to let a contract after July 1 to a university to allow it to make a full study into the matter. I am assured by the Air Force that the investigation will be fair and thorough."

If this matter is as important as Mr. John G. Fuller says it is, and if the Air Force has been engaged in such "tremendous fabrications" ^{concerning something} they seem to know nothing about, why concern them at all? Why farm out this investigation to some university. Why does not congress conduct such an investigation itself?

H.G.

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LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(HULLETT, T.)

RE: INVESTIGATION

July 8, 1966

Mr. Theodore Gray Hullett
561 - 37th Avenue
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Hullett;

Thank you for your letter of July 5th with your personal message of support for a Congressional investigation of UFOs. I know that I received many of the cards that you addressed and I appreciate having your support.

As you know, as the result of my request for a Congressional investigation, the House Committee on Armed Service did hold hearings and although they were brief, it was also decided that grants would be made to six universities to further study the unexplained sightings.

A lead university will be chosen and will, in turn, choose five others to assist it, on a geographical basis. I am sorry that I have no information at the present time as to what university will be chosen.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward as well to the report which will be made public by the universities.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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SAN FRANCISCO INTERPLANETARY CLUB

Mr. Theodore Gray Hullett

President

561 37th Avenue

San Francisco, California

94121

July 5, 1966.

Mr. Gerald R. Ford,
House Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

In response to a letter from another of our Units of Understanding, I read an Announcement to the Membership & Guests, at our May Lecture, requesting that all of us present, search our Hearts, and write to you in support of your Demand, for Congressional Investigation of, and a full Report on the U.F.O. to the People.

I addressed 125, 40 Postal Cards & passed them out to each of the People who wanted one.

I felt that an Individual Request is what you needed. That is the purpose of this letter. To give you my personal support, and from the Heart, in this long awaited Report, due our People.

Your Friend,

Theodore Gray Hullett

Theodore Gray Hullett - President

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Legislative

UFO
(Hoffman, Marc)

July 11, 1966

Mr. Marc Hoffman
1913 Shady Lane
Oreland, Pennsylvania 19075

Dear Marc,

Thanks for your note of July 7 about the UFO club. I am sorry that I do not have a UFO club and so I will return to you your membership card and contribution.

I do have some press releases on unidentified flying objects. I am sending these to you in the hope that you and your fellow club members will find them interesting.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford: M.C.

GRF:bu

Encl.

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

7/2/68
1913 Shady Lake
Arland, Penna. 19075

Dear Gerald,

I am enclosing my membership card,
a small contribution, and a UFO booklet
which I received from NASA. If I can
help in any way with the newspaper,
please tell me.

Marc Hoffman

LEGISLATIVE Q

UFO

(WEITZEL, W.)

RE: BLUEBOOK

July 7, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of July 2nd enclosing material that would tend to substantiate mishandling of UFO reports by Project Blue Book.

I was interested to receive the material that you sent and to examine it. While I am not qualified to comment on this specific sighting, it is hoped that the investigation that is to be conducted by six universities will be more thorough and objective and will avoid the pitfalls of earlier studies.

As you know, the lead university will be chosen shortly and will receive its grant and pick five others to assist it. I share your concerns and hope that we will see some results.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

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UFO

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

PITTSBURGH SUBCOMMITTEE

5709 Woodmont St.

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

July 2, 1866

Honorable Gerald Ford
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Clipping on "Blue Book"

Dear Mr. Ford:

About five weeks ago, we exchanged correspondence briefly over events surrounding the UFO sighting in Ohio - Pennsylvania on April 17, which involved the pursuit of an object in view of several witnesses. I sent you a photocopy of a letter I had mailed to Congressman William Stanton, detailing some peculiarities involved in the Air Force's explanation of this case.

At that time, your reply explained that your chief interest in the UFO topic was sponsoring a Congressional investigation into the handling of such cases by the Air Force. You included a press release from your office, pointing out that you had accomplished something toward an improvement of the situation.

The real point of my communication to you, and my correspondence with Congressman Stanton, was to illuminate a typical instance of mishandling of a UFO report by Project Blue Book. In documenting the UFO sighting, my primary interest in working on that case, I felt it necessary to document as well, the Project's lack of thoroughness and the extreme degree of inaccuracy in their explanation of this event as a combination of observations of Echo and Venus. The impression left in the public mind was that either (1) the deputies who chased the UFO were subject to unaccountable attacks of prolonged hysteria, or (2) the Air Force is doing a shoddy job of investigating and explaining UFO reports.

The first possibility has absolutely no foundation in fact. I have just completed a 126-page report to NICAP, on my investigation of the "chase", and information relating to Major Hector Quintanilla's performance relevant to that event. A copy of the table of contents of this report is enclosed, along with my introduction to the section on Congressional correspondence. I am also enclosing a copy of a recent letter to Congressman Stanton, which included a list of points which Major Quintanilla heard at his belated interview with the deputies, which points are a strong rebuttal of the major's explanation.

I am forwarding this material because I share your concern over the official (mis)handling of the UFO problem. I feel that, as long as the basic structure of Project Blue Book, and the procedures of its investigators, remain in their present form, no amount of augmenting at other levels will suffice to correct the problem. I believe that a close look should be had at the reasons why that Project has regularly deprecated the actual and potential significance of the UFO phenomenon, and that something should be done to correct the adverse effects of this deprecation on all citizens who have or could have contributed, or might yet do so, to our fuller understanding of the problem.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel, Chairman

Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

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LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(BATEMAN, F.)

RE: INFO

July 29, 1966

Mr. Frank F. Bateman, Jr.
Box 5371
College Station
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Bateman:

This is just a note to thank you for your letter of July 25th enclosing the three articles from the publication "Flying Saucer Review."

I am pleased to have these and wish to thank you for passing them along to me.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

Box 5371
College Station
Raleigh, N. C.
July 25, 1966

Hon. Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

Enclosed are three excellent articles from several recent issues of the highly recognized English UFO publication "Flying Saucer Review." Two of the articles are by Jacques Vallée who is presently conducting an extremely objective statistical analysis of the UFO phenomenon. It is hoped that these articles will be of some interest to you. (There is no need for their return.)

Sincerely,

Frank F. Bateman, Jr.
Frank F. Bateman, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(KONLEY, R. G.)

R: E EFFICACY OF UNV.
STUDY

July 1, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Konley:

Thank you for your letter of June 29th regarding UFOs and for your comments about the book "Incident At Exeter." I appreciate having your comments and your interest in this matter.

The most recent we have from the Air Force indicates that a total of six universities will be studying the unexplained sightings; one lead university and five others chosen by that university.

While I had called for a Congressional investigation, I feel that this is a step in the right direction. As you know it was my request for such an investigation that occasioned the hearings, short as they were, that were held by the House Committee on Armed Services.

You ask in your letter, "How in the world will such a university be able to do a better job in answering this so-called mystery, if, after 20 years, with a team of experts and scientists, the Air Forces' 'Project Bluebook' cannot or will not?"

Of course it is certainly possible that the six universities working together will not come up with any additional information that will help clear up this matter, but I hope that they will. In any event, I would want them to at least have a chance to do this before I would judge their efforts. I think this is only fair and I am hopeful that this study might promote meaningful debate on this subject as you express interest in this in your letter.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

RAYMOND G. KONLEY
1815 E. Newberry Blvd., Apt. E
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

JUNE 29, 1966

(HON.) GERALD R. FORD
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

My purpose in writing to you again, is to bring to your attention something I hope you will find very interesting regarding M.F.O.^s

A Mr. John D. Fuller has just published a book, titled, "Incident At Exeter", covering documented well witnessed M.F.O. activity in the state of New Hampshire.

Now, I realize that the Armed Services Committee, in letting a contract to some university, to study M.F.O.^s and make a full report on them, is well intentioned, but there are some questions that are quite evident many people will be wondering, as well as myself.

How in the world will such a university be able to do a better job in answering this so called mystery, if, after 20 years, with a team of -

experts and scientists, the Air Forces' "Project Blue Book" - cannot or will not?

It seems to me it's just another method of passing the well worn buck, and dodging an issue that many people today would like some honest answers to, don't you agree? This is merely going to be duplication.

If ever there were strong evidence about M.F.O.s and eventual proof, it is in Mr. Fuller's book, and I sincerely hope you will obtain a copy of "Incident at Epeter" for personal verification for future debate in Congress.

ask the Congress, If automobiles and insecticides can be debated, why not the sacred cow M.F.O.s?

What will be gained from such silence, if a series of M.F.O.s make mass landings in or near populated centers to cause real panic from an un-informed public?

If the Air Force would stop trying to catch or destroy proven M.F.O.s - which they should realize by now they cannot after 20 years of hot pursuit, instead, they should try to make some intelligent contact with them - pointing out, that courtesy might work where bullets have failed, in as much as

M.F.O.'s are not a national defense worry; as they
stead fastly maintain.

Thanking you once again for your kind attention,

Sincerely,

Raymond L. Rowley