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1966: Unidentified Flying Objects - Unanswered, September  
- December (folder B49-5)  
*Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers*

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9-26-66 @ 1:30 Mr. C telephoned from Port Angeles. Wants to know if he will be protected if he gives his wife to Dr. Hynek. Tell him this would have to be worked out with Dr. H.

P.O. Box 49  
Port Angeles, Washington 98362  
September 21, 1966

UFO

Congressman Gerald R. Ford  
Congress of the United States  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I sent to Dr. J. Allen Hynek who is consultant to the Air Force regarding scientific investigations of UFOs. I talked to your office assistant yesterday by phone expressing my wish to co-operate with you and your office in obtaining public hearings on Unidentified Flying Objects. I also mentioned to your office assistant whose name I am sorry I cannot recall at this moment, about a doctor bill that was sent to me through the mail with an Air Force postal mark stamped on the back of it indicating that my private mail has been channeled to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington State. As a citizen standing on my constitutional rights I would desire that this matter be looked into. I can understand this happening as a mistake, but as I have had considerable correspondence with official government agencies including Senator Wayne Morse's office, as well as your own and also correspondence with civilian aviation companies and private individuals concerning my personal efforts in UFO research as well as the related subject concerning my efforts to produce or invent an electro-magnetic aircraft propulsion system, etc., I thought I had better see that this incident became a matter of record in case any future mistakes might come to pass.

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In order for me to be of any future help to your office regarding UFOs I would desire to be put in touch with someone locally in the State of Washington who is connected with your office. When you read the enclosed letter to Dr. Hynek, I hope you will understand that I believe I have need of advice and protection from an official source such as your office before going any further. Again I'm making an offer to be of assistance to your office in your UFO investigation if you will but let me know in what way I can be of assistance. In the 20 years experience that I have in the UFO research field, etc., I have traveled a lot, saw a lot, and come in contact with all manner of individuals, organizations, etc., involved in the UFO confusion. So I think that there will be many individuals that could contribute information that would be of help to you towards obtaining an open hearing if they know they are talking to someone who will keep an open mind to what they are saying, so when you're dealing with people regarding the UFO subject please keep this thought in mind. Frankly, I think a lot of these individuals of the lunatic fringe should be put in their proper places to keep them from confusing the issue any further.

So please let me know if you have any further opinions or requests concerning the enclosed information. But in closing I would like to say that I am asking for protection from your office of my constitutional and inventor's rights as a citizen. And I'm asking this of your office because you are the Congressman who publicly asked for hearings on

Unidentified Flying Objects, etc. Besides I feel that if I was allowed to look through Air Force UFO photographs of my own choosing, aided with protection from your office I could probably help you quite a bit.

I would appreciate an early reply and please find my phone number and address enclosed in case you have need of it.

Sincerely,

*William D. Clendenon, Jr.*  
William D. Clendenon, Jr.

Address: 409 South Laurel  
Port Angeles, Wash.

Phone No. (Area Code 206) 457-7710

P.O.Box 49  
Port Angeles, Washington 98362  
September 21, 1966

Dr. J. Allen Hynek  
Department of Astronomy  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek:

After speaking with you on the phone yesterday, I cut out the enclosed newspaper clipping concerning your recent comments on clearing up as much as possible the mystery of UFO phenomenon. It is the only paper I'm able to purchase here at this time, so I don't know how the other newspapers carried your story. However your story was well received out here on radio and TV from all the reports I have heard.

As I expressed to you on the phone yesterday I am sure the general public has never wanted to fight the Air Force or the Government concerning this UFO subject, but when for 20 years citizens have looked to their Air Force and Government for the truth regardless of what it may have been and in turn received answers such as "swamp gas", "chicken feeder", "weather balloons", "temperature inversions", etc., it has only added to the confusion and built up distrust and hostility towards Government agencies, etc., involved to the point where it is now up to those Government agencies and personnel to prove to the public that they are big enough to admit where they were wrong in the way they handled their public relations concerning UFO phenomenon. Because of the above-mentioned Government foul-up in UFO public relations media this has left the subject wide open and at the mercy of con-artists, liars, and out-and-out kooks; and the honest layman has been left in a state of confusion, mistrust towards their Government, etc., so that the damage done in all areas is not going to be easy to overcome. As I expressed to you on the phone yesterday, once honest citizens find an official source that they can learn to trust and actually realize some concrete action on clearing up the UFO confusion as much as possible, I think you will find that you'll receive a great deal of information and assistance to help towards clearing up the UFO mystery which up to now has been held back in the past because of the official skeptical conduct of various Government agencies, etc.

I think the statements you made, Dr. Hynek, as expressed in the enclosed newspaper clipping have made a good start towards this and I feel safe in saying that no layman has been any more disgusted and confused by the official Government attitude towards the UFO phenomenon than I have. And by now I am sure there are those personnel in various Government agencies who know this, but if in any future dealings with any government personnel or agencies I may have on the UFO subject I find that I am being dealt with honestly and fairly in all respects, I think they will find that I will co-operate with them fully within reason.

And because of the UFO sightings, etc., I have had over the last 20 years along with the technical clues I have dug up at my own expense, etc., and the fact that I am in a layman's position, I am extending an offer to you

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and the United States Government to assist in any way possible in helping towards better public relations and a clearing up of the UFO phenomenon for the benefit of all concerned. If I can be of any assistance in helping rid the field of con-men, out-and-out liars, etc., I would gladly do so in order to help clear myself in regard to having been called all kinds of things such as a nut, a liar, etc., for all I have done is tried to tell the truth about the things I have experienced and found out in the UFO field, and this has been all at my own expense on a private basis, so you see by the changing attitude that it appears is being made officially concerning public relations, etc., regarding the UFO subject, I am willing to be one of the first to lessen the pressure I have put on various Government agencies concerning the UFO phenomenon. But as a citizen if I feel that various Government agencies are acting unconstitutionally towards their citizens and myself personally on any subject then I intend to stand on my constitutional rights and exercise all legal means of putting things in their proper perspective. In other words, when I continue to see at various times over a 20 year period vehicles operating within our atmosphere that are circular in shape with steam-like vapor and various colored lights emitting from them as well as other side-effects and my Government continues to ridicule and ignore the information that honest citizens are trying to convey to the proper authorities then I want to know why we are being lied to because any time politicians feel like declaring war they do so at the citizen's expense, and there is nothing any worse than that.

So I do not go along with the theory that the public would panic if they were informed that we have been contacted by some heretofore unknown civilization, etc. The only ones that I personally can see that secrecy in the UFO phenomenon might benefit would be various religions, governments, and individuals in powerful positions that would be forced to explain many things that they would rather not have explained. In other words, the general public under certain conditions is not always so easily fooled as some politicians, etc., would like to think.

So again if I can be of any assistance in helping to officially clear up any part of the UFO phenomenon I will gladly do so, but if I find any form of hostility or actions of untruth I'll fight it when and where I find it in order to protect the efforts in my personal case regarding UFOs, etc., as well as to help protect our constitutional rights, etc.

Now then, Dr. Hynek, I am willing to send you drawings and information concerning the propulsion system I have been working on and explain to you fully it's relationship to UFOs and the circumstances surrounding my whole personal case in this subject, but (1) I want my constitutional rights as a citizen fully protected (2) I want my inventor's rights fully protected (3) in order to do justice to all concerned with the information I have personally accumulated I desire a place of personal interview in a relaxed atmosphere with enough period of time allowed so that my story may be conveyed in its entirety and that I may be able by the use of photographs, drawings, etc., to explain the technical clues I have accumulated regarding the type of UFO vehicle I have personally seen on different occasions over the last 20 years.

When you read this letter you are bound to see the various mistakes that I've probably made in the writing of it, but I'll bet you'll understand what the letter tells you and it would hold up in a court of law if so needed. What I'm getting at is this, I am a layman but if I were allowed the assistance of qualified professional technical personnel with the basic technical knowledge I have as an amateur put together I could certainly help my country clear up at least a piece of this UFO mystery.

For instance you represented the Air Force in public and called the Adamski UFO photograph a chicken feeder. A later statement made by the Air Force in a letter to Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon (which I have in my possession) referred to the same photograph as that of a tobacco humidifier. This tells me, though I'm a layman, that the Air Force doesn't know what the hell it is! I say it's possibly a UFO because one that appeared to be identical to the object in the above-mentioned photograph flew over my backyard low and slow several years ago. And I was standing directly under it as it passed overhead. Also I have seen other photographs of UFOs that have been taken by different individuals at different times, places, and angles that appeared to be very similar to the above-mentioned Adamski UFO photo.

Now what I'm driving at is this, if various Government personnel as well as private individuals are in confusion over this one photograph, which they certainly are, then I think it justifies paying attention in an open minded, honest, professional, scientific manner to the technical findings that I have found through my own personal research program which made use of from time to time the same above-mentioned Adamski photograph for research purposes, etc.

If my propulsion system I have put together indicates even at least a 75% possibility of working including producing the various side-effects of lights, odors, no apparent sound to the human ear, right angle turns, hovering, etc., including the steam-like vapor seen in connection with UFOs at various times, then I would say that the basic findings I have come up with would justify a professional scientific research program to further develop the propulsion system I have been working on, etc. And at the same time this would help us to learn more concerning the type of aircraft such as the UFOs appear to be. It would also help us to learn more in regard to where they come from, who is operating them, etc.

You stated in the enclosed clipping a need for a scientific investigation to dispel 20 years of confusion. I agree with that a 100%. And the 20 years of experience and personal research on my part would certainly give the United States Government a hell of a good start to do just that. So I would like to know as a taxpaying citizen why in the hell we aren't doing it! Please understand, Dr. Hynek, I fully realize your personal position in this whole matter. I hope you in turn will understand my position as well. Now I ask you what more could a citizen offer? So think over what I have said, Dr. Hynek, and let me know something as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

*William D. Clendenon, Jr.*

William D. Clendenon, Jr.

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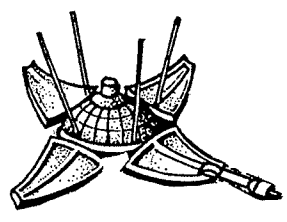
UFU

HARRY B FUCHS

242 Prospect Street  
Farmingdale, N. Y. 11735

September 26, 1966

MA



**On the Record**

I am the pioneer inventor of push button wireless tuning (p. 765, March 1918 *Electrical Experimenter*), inventor of the method for controlling multiple functions in space-time relationship by means of a single press-button or equivalent (Pat. No. 1,967,-816), inventor of the pulse-time switching basic concept (Claim 4, Pat. No. 1,967,-817). The automatic automobiles in the year 2007 operated by an electromagnetic field through induction from an underground cable, predicted in the book "Russian Science in the 21st Century" published by McGraw-Hill, was invented by me in 1917 (p. 398, Oct. 1917 *Electrical Experimenter*), and the prediction in the same book of knifeless surgery is already described in my biography in Vol. 5, *Who's Who in Commerce & Industry*, published in 1946, which also documents my basic concept for protection from nuclear explosions that was successfully tested by the U.S. Army in 1955. Furthermore, the basic unifying law of the symmetry in nature, as well as the derivation of our alpha-numerical system from phases of a circle, and the bilateral symmetrical relationship between the sine waveform and the origin of algebra are proved in my essay "God's Circle" (Reg. No. A 93605 Library of Congress). There are many more of my masterpieces.

Another basic factor influencing our scientific and technological aspirations is the newly attained knowledge that casts doubt on the validity of established concepts. For example, the law of the conservation of mass and energy is not conclusive in view of momentum and entropy which are conserved only under certain conditions, and at persistence of waveforms wherein particles thereof are always changing and in which mass and energy disappear or come into existence. These phenomena are important in filtering out and storing anti-matter particles and in anti-gravitational devices.

Harry Bricker Fuchs

Rep. Gerald R. Ford  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

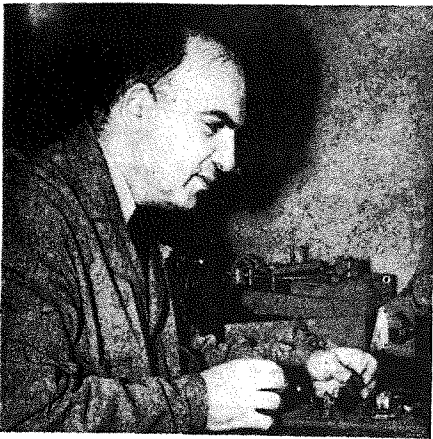
Dear Rep. Ford:

Re:- "Aboard A Flying Saucer", Oct. 4, LOOK.

The phenomenon of the "shiny circles scattered on the car trunk's surface" that caused a sharp reaction of the needle in the compass placed thereon, is related to the new science of Astrogeophysics reported in the Benton letter in the Sept. 19, 1966 issue of Technology Week. The force field within the said "shiny circles" is analgous with the force field within cylinder 3 of the apparatus illustrated in my paper "Research On Gravitation" attached hereto, which persists for days after cylinder 3 has ceased to rotate.

The scientifically-superior alien humanoids are disturbed by the nuclear explosions on our planet which could rupture the atmospheric envelope enclosing our planet (Science News Letter, 89:117, Feb. 19, 1966), and which might alter the spatial configuration of the planets in our galaxy, as postulated in the analogous Mayer's floating magnets. Either eventuality would destroy life on our planet regardless of politics or religious beliefs and practices.

Very truly yours,  
*HB Fuchs*  
Harry Bricker Fuchs



**INVENTOR** Harry Fuchs in his laboratory.

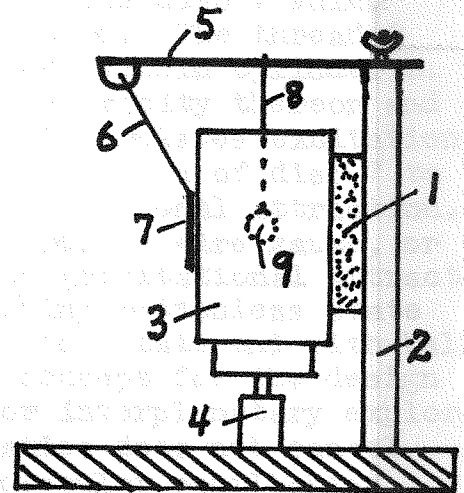
MODERN INDUSTRY 1943

### On the Record

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Another basic factor influencing our scientific and technological aspirations is the newly attained knowledge that casts doubt on the validity of established concepts. For example, the law of the conservation of mass and energy is not conclusive in view of momentum and entropy which are conserved only under certain conditions, and at persistence of waveforms wherein particles thereof are always changing and in which mass and energy disappear or come into existence. These phenomena are important in filtering out and storing anti-matter particles and in anti-gravitational devices.

The basic unifying law of the symmetry in nature is explained very simply in my essay "GOD'S CIRCLE", Registration No. A93605 Library of Congress, wherein it is disclosed that all living forms in the Universe develop symmetrically from a nucleus on a zero line of force in geometro-dynamic space-time progression and that our alphabetical and numerical symbols are interchangeable descriptive angular segments of a circle or zero in geometro-dynamic space-time progression as illustrated on p. 4 and 5 of my essay. My "Trendletter" on p. 12-14 of the June-July 1961 issue of *Industrial Research* magazine notes the relation to the development of energy at the backward flow of time.



### PRESS RELEASE

## RESEARCH ON GRAVITATION

Attention: Inventors & Scientists, Worldwide

In his address delivered at the Physical Society in Berlin, on the occasion of Max Planck's 60th birthday, Einstein said:- "There is no logical path to the universal elementary laws; only intuition, resting on sympathetic understanding of experience". And in an address in London on the theory of relativity, Einstein said:- "The fundamental principle here is that the justification for a physical concept lies exclusively in its clear and unambiguous relation to facts that can be experienced". Accordingly, this paper on the control of gravitation relates to facts, born of intuition, that can be experienced.

Both DuFay and Symmer theorized on the neutral state of electric charges, which was postulated later by Bohr's stationary-state electrons. Excitation separates mass into positive and negative electric energy quanta; whereupon the frictional excitation of the Earth's liquid core generates the attracting and all-pervading unipolar electric charge on the Earth's surface, known as gravitation. To simulate this action I constructed numerous models, one of which is sketched hereon, wherein the fibrous pad I secured to post 2 frictionally engages the plastics cylinder 3 adapted to rotate in bearing 4 upon actuation by my vibratory motor (not shown). Extension 5

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pivotaly supports the wire 6 having secured thereto the disc 7 which may be of ferrous or non-ferrous metal, or of cardboard. The thread 8 secured to extension 5 supports pith-ball 9 suspended within cylinder 3. Upon the rotation of cylinder 3, pad I generates electricity thereon and therein, whereupon the violent swings of pith-ball 9 simulates excitation of the Earth's liquid core; and the simultaneous attraction of disc 7 to the surface of cylinder 3 simulates the Earth's gravitational attraction. Upon interposing a strip of sheet metal, or cardboard, or wire gauze, or open-mesh fabric, between cylinder 3 and disc 7 the gravitational attraction is canceled and disc 7 is repelled into a hovering motionless state having a slight wobble, while cylinder 3 continues to rotate and pith-ball 9 continues to swing, thereby providing the basic concept for the design and construction of gravitation-canceling craft for interplanetary exploration. Interposing strips of some commercial plastics does not cancel the said gravitation, and indicates a different molecular oscillation rate capable of absorbing very short wave electromagnetic radiation. This line of research was begun by me in 1940 as a tubeless electronic switch in a magnetic field to simulate distortion of the Earth's magnetic field, as illustrated in MODERN INDUSTRY of August 15, 1943, and in July 1943 ELECTRONICS, p. 196.

Gravitational attraction comprises unipolar electric energy quanta on a mass, which are generated by the excitation of stationary-state particles within the mass, as postulated by Bohr. Therefore, gravitation-canceling spacecraft for interplanetary exploration should be discoidal shells having a centrally-disposed jet engine discharging an accelerated electron stream focused by metal gauze lenses to repel and cancel the gravitational charge. Coreless transformers will charge capacitors to electrify parts of the discoidal shell to effect periodic discharges therefrom to attenuate the friction of the ambient medium on the skin of the discoidal shell and minimize sonic booms. Sharp turns of the propelled discoidal shell spacecraft will be effected by swivelling the focused electron stream.

The curvature of space is analogous with the curvature of Mayer's floating-magnet geometric configurations responsive to a strong unipolar source of attracting energy; and therefore comparable with electrons orbiting around a central nucleus and planets orbiting around a central sun. Even our alpha-numerical symbols are derived from phases of segmental curvatures as illustrated in my fundamental monograph GOD'S CIRCLE noted in the attached printed column. Algebra is derived from curvatures symbolizing alternating polarities as expounded in my said monograph, of which Descartes' coordinates and the principle of inversion are derivatives. The geometry of Pythagoras and Euclid relate to straight lines extending from central nuclei to their outer circumferential curvatures. The machined metal cube of meteorite iron and nickel, fabricated more than 300,000 years ago, and now in the Salzburg Museum in Austria, indicates that we are not the only scientifically-competent humanoids in the Universe.

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1966

611-621 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10012, U.S.A.

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EINAR E. PETERSON  
BOX 291, SKÅLDERVIKEN

Sweden September 12, 1966

UFO  
file

Mr. John G. Fuller.

Dear John:

MA

Have read your article in "True, The  
Man's Magazine", August 1966, about  
"Unidentified Flying Object" also other  
writings on the subject. Yes! It sure  
is interesting, almost frightening.

You suggest three explanations of  
the phenomenon, any one of the  
three may be the answer.

As a bible student, I will have  
add one more probable explana-  
-tion until some more positive  
proof presents itself.

So here I leave you with the  
thought of what the Bible is

Saying, particular Daniel and  
Revelation (see Rev. 13:12) in fact  
the entire Bible is prophetic  
Sincerely yours  
Cecil Peterson

P.S.

This is an letter sent to you,  
John G. Fuller, as his writings  
about U.F.O. also mention  
your name, I am sending this  
letter to you for that reason.

Sincerely yours  
Cecil Peterson

45 Congress St.  
Bradford, Pa. 16701

UFO

October 5, 1966

Honorable William Stanton  
1625 Longworth Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Stanton:

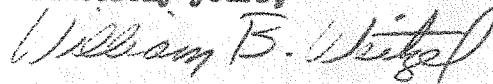
Thank you for sending me your letter from Colonel Hayden P. Mims. I have typed a rebuttal, a copy of which is enclosed. If you have time to peruse this, you will see how confused the Air Force is about the April 17 sighting. Colonel Mims' letter apparently is the result of a telephone call to Major Quintanilla; what suggests this is the phrase, "90-degree arc", which could be a misunderstanding by Colonel Mims of one of the major's locutions used to describe a vertical ascent: "90-degree climb." Spaur was unequivocal and emphatic about the UFO's climbing vertically at the terminus of the sighting.

Colonel Mims' letter disturbs me a great deal, not only because of its large quantity of misinformation, but because of its clearly indicating the Air Force's lack of seriousness about this sighting, and their apparent belief that it can be easily brushed off. It may be gratuitous of me, but I still believe there is not a concerted effort to mislead you; it simply seems that no one in Blue Book has examined the evidence.

Of course, whether it is the Air Force's intention or not, you have been seriously misled.

I realize that, the more this issue is pushed, the more reluctant the Air Force will be to give the situation a fair appraisal. Nevertheless, I believe it is still worthwhile to work for a fair appraisal. I shall continue my efforts toward this goal, and would appreciate any support you have time to offer.

Sincerely yours,



William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

Enclosures: August 23 NICAP summary, USAF disposition of April 17 case  
August 30 letter to Colonel Florian A. Holm (unanswered)  
September 13 letter to Colonel Holm (unanswered)  
October 4 comments on letter from Colonel Mims  
October 4 letter to Colonel R. R. Hippler

Copy sent to: Sheriff Ross Dustman  
Mr. James Bersie  
Dr. James McDonald

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

45 Congress St.  
Bradford, Pa. 16701

October 5, 1966

Mr. James Bersie  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bersie:

The purpose of this letter is to bring you up to date on developments in NICAP's efforts to effect a re-evaluation of the April 17 UFO sighting, called by the Air Force "The Ravenna Case."

Of chief interest is the letter sent recently to Congressman Stanton from Colonel Hayden P. Mims, in reply to Mr. Stanton's request to Major Quintinalla for a reclassification of the sighting to "unknown." I have also enclosed a rebuttal to Colonel Mims' letter, as that letter contains much misinformation and misleading emphases on certain aspects of the sighting.

In general, it appears that the Air Force is unwilling to examine the testimony offered by witnesses who corroborated Deputy Spaur's observations. This would tend to cast considerable doubt on the seriousness of the Air Force's intentions to have UFO investigations conducted in a thorough and scientific manner.

I trust the enclosed information will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

*William B. Weitzel*

William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

Enclosures: August 16 editorial from Ravenna Record-Courier  
August 17 article from Record-Courier  
August 23 NICAP summary, USAF disposition of the April 17 case  
August 26 letter from Record-Courier  
August 30 letter to Colonel Florian A. Holm (unanswered)  
September 13 letter to Colonel Holm (unanswered)  
September 30 letter from Colonel Mims to Congressman Stanton  
October 4 comments on Colonel Mims' letter by William Weitzel  
October 4 letter to Colonel R. R. Hippler  
October 5 letter to Colonel George Freeman  
October 5 letter to Congressman Stanton

# RECORD-COURIER

Ravenna, Ohio

R. C. Dix, Publisher

A. R. Sicuro (Ravenna)  
Tom Sicuro

Editors

Loris Troyer (Kent)  
Ed Glassner

4 — Record-Courier, Tuesday, August 16, 1966

## A Matter of Trust

Either you are going to be scientific or you are not going to be.

The Air Force had been making show of being scientific in its investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects.

It has scientists who consult with it on important reportings of UFO's.

And when a scientist — a profession which has the highest of standings in our society — agrees with the Air Force that any given UFO siting is a hoax, it adds credence and support to the Air Force conclusion.

But now it seems that at least one scientific consultant has been used as a "rubber stamp" on at least one UFO siting, that of two Portage County deputies who followed something they and others thought they saw all the way to Pennsylvania.

The National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) has been told

by the Air Force's chief consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, that he did not concur with its conclusion that the Portage siting was a satellite or Venus.

This would mean that the Air Force simply used Dr. Hynek's prestige to buttress a conclusion which without it would carry much less weight.

In a civil dealing, this would be fraud.

When done by a branch of our Armed Forces, it is even worse, for it strikes at the very heart of the faith which we must be able to place in our government and the men who man its top positions.

An explanation is in order here — did the Air Force misstate Dr. Hynek's views on the siting?

If so the consequences are much greater than simply one single UFO siting.

How could we believe their intelligence reports on North Viet Nam?

See correction, published 8/26

# Raps Blue Book Method of Investigation

*Ravenna, Ohio*

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on your fine editorial of August 16, entitled "A Matter of Trust."

Project Blue Book's actions regarding the April 17 UFO sighting which began in Portage County, have indeed been discouraging. Major Quintanilla, the project chief, has refused to consider many factors which do not agree with his conclusion, that the deputies and other police officers only observed an artificial satellite and the planet, Venus.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Project Blue Book's scientific consultant, supposedly passes judgment

on all astronomical conclusions. Major Quintanilla stated this to your reporter Carol Clapp, in an interview appearing in your paper on June 8. NICAP first became aware that Dr. Hynek had been ignored in this case, when a letter from him to another party was forwarded to NICAP.

His letter was a reply to some direct questions asked by that party. It was this letter to which Major Keyhoe, NICAP's

director, referred in a recent speech in Cleveland.

Major Quintanilla told me on Aug. 5, that he had just sent Dr. Hynek the April 17 case files, including a 126-page report I wrote for NICAP, and had asked for his opinion. He was apparently dissatisfied with Dr. Hynek's disagreement; Dr. Hynek has gone on public record as not having been officially consulted. This is, indeed, embarrassing to Dr. Hynek, but

the facts should be even more embarrassing to Major Quintanilla.

On May 10, in Ravenna, Major Quintanilla received testimony that the UFO had first moved in a northerly direction, then returned south to hover directly overhead. He also heard, several times, that Venus had been observed in addition to the UFO, during the chase. Yet in a letter to me, the major says a satellite went from northwest to southeast, and — amazingly — had the officers observed Venus, "new light would have been shed on the case."

This letter was a reply to one I had sent him 11 weeks before, in which I drew a picture of the positions of Venus and the UFO. Furthermore, about 12 other points of testimony were overlooked, in the major's conclusion.

It is ridiculous to have to belabor an obvious fact — that several police officers observed a huge, bright, nearby airborne object. When it takes the efforts of Cong. William Stanton to bring Major Quintanilla's attention to this fact, it is worse than ridiculous. When the Air Force's own scientific expert is ignored because his opinion threatens an absurd explanation, it is outrageous.

The Air Force's move to turn over the UFO problem to a team of university scientists may correct a basic flaw in their UFO investigative program. But in this instance at least, their handling of the April 17 sighting, a more direct correction is still needed. NICAP is still working, and hoping, for that correction.

William B. Weitzel  
National Investigator  
Committee on Aerial  
Phenomena (NICAP)

## READER'S OPINION

CORRECTION  
OF 8/16  
EDITORIAL

### Record-Courier, Wednesday, August 17, 1966— Suggests 'Blue Book' Be Placed in Scientists' Hands

*Ravenna, Ohio*

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief consultant to the Air Force's Project Blue Book UFO investigative unit, said today that he was not consulted on the Portage County April 17 sighting and did not concur with the Air Force conclusion of "a satellite and then Venus."

"I have some misgivings about the Air Force conclusion," Dr. Hynek said today. "If the testimony is correct (that of the police officers who said they saw the UFO) I do not concur with the conclusion," the astrophysicist at and director of Dearborn Observatory of Northwestern University said.

"It all hinges on the reliability of the testimony of the witness... I would be the last to doubt the words of policemen. I do not see how, in the face of the evidence, they saw a satellite."

The crucial question, Dr. Hynek indicated, was not the end

of the sighting, which may or may not have been involved Venus, but "What did Deputy Dale Spaur see rise over the tree-tops?"

Dr. Hynek said he has the report prepared by William Weitzel, chairman of the Pittsburgh Subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

"The Air Force is not primarily a scientific investigative body; its primary purpose is to defend the country. This is why I've been recommending that the Air Force give this (the UFO question generally) to a team of scientists for study."

Dr. Hynek proposed the measures, that have since been adopted by the Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board as recommendations, to turn the question of the UFO phenomena over to teams of scientists from universities for detailed, scientific study.

This plan is now underway.

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1966 August 23: Disposition of the April 17, 1966 UFO chase, by the USAF

About three weeks ago, Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Chief of Project Blue Book, sent the USAF case file, including a 126-page NICAP report on the sighting, to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Blue Book scientific consultant (Dr. Hynek was at that time vacationing in Ontario.) (This, the first time Dr. Hynek was asked for an opinion, was fifteen weeks after the UFO sighting.)

Major Quintanilla told this to William Weitzel, NICAP Investigator, who called him on August 5. Major Quintanilla also told Weitzel that, were Dr. Hynek and Colonel DeGoes, the major's superior officer in the Foreign Technology Division, to concur on a re-evaluation, the "satellite-Venus" explanation would be dropped. The major denied having any responsibility for a change of evaluation. Colonel DeGoes told Weitzel on the phone, the same day (August 5), that an objective evaluation would be made.

On August 12, Weitzel called Project Blue Book. The other staff officer, Lieutenant Marley, said he had just talked with Major Quintanilla, and that the case had been re-evaluated with Colonel DeGoes; and that Major Quintanilla was still firm in his conclusion, that the sighting was an observation of an artificial satellite, then Venus. Yet, in statements to the press recently\*, Dr. Hynek claims he disagrees with this conclusion.

It is apparent that Major Quintanilla is ignoring not only Dr. Hynek's professional opinion based on the witnesses' testimony, but the testimony itself. On May 10, in a meeting in Ravenna, Ohio, the major heard from them repeatedly, that the UFO was seen in addition to Venus. Yet, in a letter to Weitzel dated 15 July, the major asked, "I ask you, why didn't any of the witnesses observe Venus which was definitely rising in the southeast? Had such an observance been made, new light would have been shed on the case. . . I ask you why wasn't Venus observed when the planet was definitely there? Without a reference point, Venus would have appeared to perform erratic maneuvers. As the witnesses were traveling toward the southeast how could they have any balancing point of reference to judge the movement of the planet."

Not only did the men testify to seeing Venus, which was near the horizon, they also stated (correctly) that it was to the right of the moon; a good "reference point." Furthermore, much of their travel was due east, at which time the UFO was seen to their left (north), on a course parallel to theirs. In the same letter, moreover, the major states, "the satellite approached the southeast portion of the sky," in describing the initial phase of the sighting. But the witnesses testified that the UFO first came from the south, going due north, then returned to hover directly overhead, and that it hummed and lit up the road brilliantly. Furthermore, the major's letter was a reply to one sent by Weitzel on May 17, in which was included a sketch of the moon-Venus-UFO situation, and all these and several other points from testimony to the major, which contradict his conclusion. The testimony was tape-recorded, and a copy is available for inspection in the NICAP office. In his 15 July letter, the major did not answer any of Weitzel's detailed, numbered points, though he said, "Achieving a scientific and objective explanation of all UFO reports is of great importance to me."

In an interview with reporter Carol Clapp, in the June 8, 1966 RECORD-COURIER (Ravenna, Ohio), Major Quintanilla said Dr. Hynek gives final approval or disapproval to all of Blue Book's astronomical conclusions. Blue Book published its "satellite-Venus" conclusion on April 23, and never consulted Dr. Hynek officially. When Dr. Hynek was finally asked for his opinion, however, based

\* Page 2/ on the complete USAF and NICAP case files, it was pointedly ignored.

From the Ravenna, Ohio RECORD-COURIER; to Carol Clapp; August 17, 1966:

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief consultant to the Air Force's Project Blue Book, UFO investigative unit, said today he was not consulted on the Portage County April 17 sighting, and did not concur with the Air Force conclusion of a "satellite and then Venus."

"I have some misgivings about the Air Force conclusion," Dr. Hynek said today. "If the testimony is correct, that of the police officers who said they saw the UFO, I do not concur with the conclusion," the astrophysicist and Director of Dearborn Observatory said. "It all hinges on the reliability of the testimony of the witnesses. I would be the last to doubt the word of a policeman. I do not see how, in the face of the evidence, they saw a satellite." The crucial question, Dr. Hynek indicated, was not the end of the sighting, which may or may not have involved Venus, but what did Deputy Dale Spaur see rise over the treetops?

Dr. Hynek said he has the report prepared by William Weitzel, chairman of the Pittsburgh Subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. "The Air Force is not primarily a scientific investigative body; its primary purpose is to defend the country. This is why I have been recommending that the Air Force give this, the UFO question generally, to a team of scientists for study." Dr. Hynek proposed the measures that have since been adopted by the Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board's recommendations to turn the question of the UFO phenomena over to teams of scientists from universities for detailed scientific study. This plan is now under way.

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From the New Bedford, Massachusetts STANDARD-TIMES; to Greg Stone;  
August 21, 1966:

The top Air Force consultant on unidentified flying objects has called for a "put up or shut up" study of the UFO problem. And it looks as if the Air Force is taking notice. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Astronomy Department of Northwestern University, and Air Force scientific consultant for eighteen years, said, "I'm getting to the point where I'd like to say, 'Let's put up or shut up.' After twenty years of confusion, I'd like to see it cleared up."

"The only way to clear it up," Dr. Hynek said, "is to have scientists take a good look at it -- not only physical scientists, but social scientists, psychologists, sociologists and so forth."

"Instead of having 'UFO' just a synonym for 'crackpot and ridicule', let's make it scientifically respectable, so a person can look at it without being laughed at. Then, if there's nothing to it, which is always likely, well, all right; an honest job has been done in looking at it."

"Way back in 1953, in papers to the Optical Society of America, I already then, guardedly, called for greater scientific attention," Dr. Hynek said. However, when it was noted he was taking a stronger stand now, Dr. Hynek said, "I am now, because the persistence of the phenomena bothers me, the persistence over all these years. You see, back in 1948 I would have just about taken any bets that, well, shucks, by 1952 or 1953 this will be over like any craze. Who thinks of hula hoops today, for instance. But the thing is persistent, not only in this country but in many other countries. So as a social phenomena if nothing else, it's worthy of study. I'm getting impatient with the perpetuation of confusion. I would say we should put as much effort on one of these puzzling cases as we would on a Brinks robbery or a kidnapping case. Let's get to the bottom of it."

5709 Woodmont St.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

August 30, 1966

Colonel Florian A. Holm, Commander  
Foreign Technology Division  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio 45433

Dear Colonel Holm:

Thank you for your communication of August 3. I am writing again in connection with the April 17, 1966 UFO "chase" from Ohio to Pennsylvania, called by Project Blue Book "the Ravenna case."

On May 10, at the request of Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur, one of the four police officers directly involved in the April 17 sighting, I tape recorded Major Quintanilla's interview with Deputies Spaur, Neff and Wilson. Because the major's explanation of the sighting, that it was of an Echo satellite and Venus, contradicted many points of testimony, I wrote to the major on May 17. My letter listed over twelve points, from the tape recorded testimony, including material indicating the UFO had first appeared in the west, then due south, then moved over the road due north, then returned to hover directly overhead. At this time it subtended a visual angle of about fifty degrees and was too bright to look at directly. This rules out its being a satellite.

During the chase, the planet Venus was also observed, to the right of the moon. The deputies' description, in their drawing of the situation, corresponds with the astronomical positions of the moon and Venus on that morning. Since they testified to this several times on May 10, and to me on an earlier date, the major's statement that Venus was the UFO during the chase, is incorrect.

My letter of May 17 listed these points, including a drawing of the moon-Venus-UFO positions. Yet in Major Quintanilla's reply of July 15, he stated that, had Venus been observed as distinct from the UFO, "new light would have been shed on the case." He answered none of my points directly. He also ignored the fact that Patrolmen Wayne Huston and Frank Panzanella corroborated the deputies' account. I have talked with these men and know just what information they submitted to a Blue Book representative. Deputy Spaur is only one of four men involved.

I consider my May 17 letter still unanswered, and the case still unexplained. In addition, Dr. Hynek's opinion is being intentionally overlooked. Major Quintanilla told me on August 5 that he had sent the Blue Book case files, including a 126 page report I wrote for NICAP, to Dr. Hynek in Canada, where he was vacationing, with a request for his opinion. Since returning, Dr. Hynek has stated publicly that he was not involved in the investigation of the sighting, and disagrees with Blue Book's conclusion. (Statement appeared in the Ravenna, Ohio, RECORD-COURIER, August 17, in an interview with reporter Carol Clapp.) The major told reporter Clapp earlier (June 8) that Dr. Hynek passes final judgment on all of Blue Book's astronomical conclusions.

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I have made what I think is a more than reasonable effort to bring the details of the sighting to Major Quintanilla's attention. Yet, despite my painstakingly clear letter, despite the witnesses' testimony, despite Dr. Hynck's solicited opinion, the major is, according to Lt. Marley, "still firm in his conclusion." (Phone call to Blue Book August 12.)

The major's conclusion has put everyone involved into an impossible position, Colonel Holm. To the extent it is accepted, all the officers involved in the UFO sighting are pictured as incompetent. To the extent it is not accepted, the Air Force suffers a loss of prestige. The public sees Dr. Hynck's role in the evaluation as, at best, highly peculiar.

This situation, Colonel Holm, warrants your concern and serious attention. I urge you to take some action to correct it. The reputations of the police officers, Dr. Hynck, and the Air Force need to be repaired. And I believe Major Quintanilla himself would be more comfortable if Blue Book were to take the facts into account in a thorough, open and sincere evaluation of the April 17 sighting.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

*William B. Weitzel*

William B. Weitzel

cc: Congressman William Stanton  
Sheriff Ross Dustman  
Mr. James Bercie

45 Congress St.  
Bradford, Pa. 16701

September 13, 1966

Colonel Florian A. Holm, Commander  
Foreign Technology Division  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio 45433

Dear Colonel Holm:

The above address reflects my change of location to Bradford, where I have resumed my teaching duties with the University of Pittsburgh's regional campus. It may be that some correspondence from you is being forwarded from my previous address in Pittsburgh, but I thought it would be appropriate to send you the enclosed material anyway.

My contention that Major Quintanilla is ignoring the testimony of the police officers who witnessed the April 17 low-flying object, is not simply my opinion. I have made reference previously to my NICAP report, which I submitted on July 30 to Colonel DeGoes, which you acknowledged in your letter to me of August 3, and which Major Quintanilla claimed on August 5 he had sent to Dr. Hynek in Canada. Included in that report is my letter to the major of May 17, quoting statements made to him from the tape made at the May 10 hearing in Ravenna, Ohio. Included also is a partial transcript of the tape.

I realize you have little time to peruse a bulky document, but thought I should bring to your attention at least the transcript. It is therefore enclosed herein, in addition to an unedited copy of the tape from which it was typed. The tape includes some interviews I had with the officers immediately following the hearing, and some interviews with me broadcast over the local (Kent-Ravenna) radio station. I do not intend that you should listen to the tape; the hearing, alone, lasted over two hours. I am including it to back up the transcript.

The transcript is particularly interesting in light of what Major Quintanilla told Lieutenant Marley -- that he is basing his conclusion on what information he gathered on April 17, not heeding anything received on May 10. This is interesting because (1) Deputy Spaur said the original interview began with the major's asking, "What was this mirage you saw," and lasted less than three minutes; and (2) the major told Spaur on May 10, after the hearing, that the information collected therein was identical with that gotten April 17.

Spaur's testimony of having seen Venus is on pages 8, 9 and 12 of the transcript. There are many other features of interest in this document, including a passage on page 5, where the major clearly (though perhaps unintentionally) tries to force Spaur to describe a satellite observation. Spaur rallied, but this did not affect the outcome.

That is all for now, sir. By the way, I would appreciate your acknowledging my communications. I wonder if this material is reaching you.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

CC: Congressman William Stanton  
Sheriff Ross Dustman  
Mr. James Bersie

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

SEP 30 1966

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SEP 30 1966

Dear Mr. Stanton:

We refer to your further inquiry regarding the unidentified flying object (UFO) sighting in Portage County, Ohio, on April 17, 1966.

The Air Force has carefully considered your suggestion that the Portage County sighting should be changed to unknown. However, after again reviewing the statements submitted by all of the persons involved, it was determined that the original evaluation should stand.

Statements were received from personnel at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Pennsylvania, Chief of Police Buchert, Mantua, Ohio, and Deputy Sheriffs Dale Spaur and Wilbur Neff. We think it should be noted that Sheriff Neff's statement was exactly the same as that of Sheriff Spaur. The other statements did differ in a number of respects; however, this information must also be taken into consideration.

Sheriff Spaur's statement is purely subjective and impossible to duplicate. He stated that the object was right over the Greater Pittsburgh Airport and that an aircraft had flown directly over the object. When a check was made with the tower operator to determine whether he had observed the object that Sheriff Spaur was reporting, he stated he did not see it. However, he asked the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) radar controller if they could make contact. The FAA controllers could not pick up the object that Sheriff Spaur was reporting. Two days after the observation, the Air Force contacted the radar site at Oakdale Army Installation, Oakdale, Pennsylvania, and asked if they had picked up any unusual radar tracks. Their reply was also negative.

Sheriff Spaur also made the statement that at daybreak, the object disappeared within a matter of two or three seconds

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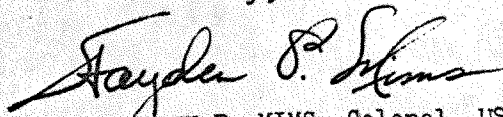
while traveling through a 90-degree arc. If this had been the case, we believe that someone in the vicinity would have heard a sonic boom. There were no reports of sonic booms in Pittsburgh or adjacent areas during that time.

Chief Buchert was involved in the sighting only at the beginning. The Air Force also took into consideration his report, his description of the object, and the photographs which he submitted to the Air Force. His statements regarding the object lead the Air Force to believe that he was observing Venus and that he also tried to photograph that planet.

We hope you will understand that the Air Force is not questioning the integrity of any of the observers; however, considering the information we have received about this experience or event, we must try to explain it in terms of the data available. You may be assured that the Air Force has tried to make an honest evaluation of what transpired with all the information which was collected.

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

Sincerely,



HAYDEN P. MIMS, Colonel, USAF  
Congressional Inquiry Division  
Office of Legislative Liaison

Honorable J. William Stanton

House of Representatives

COMMENTS ON LETTER SENT SEPTEMBER 30, 1966 FROM COLONEL HAYDEN P. MIMS TO CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM STANTON, REGARDING THE APRIL 17, 1966 CHASE OF A LOW-FLYING AERIAL OBJECT FROM OHIO TO PENNSYLVANIA:

1. Letter identifies subject as "sighting in Portage County, Ohio," but no reference is made to observations by the deputies in Portage County.
2. The only Portage County observation referred to is by Chief Gerald Buchert, who was 18 miles distant from the object reported by the deputies to be 50 feet directly overhead, then alternately hovering and moving. Buchert's observation was of an object at an elevation of about 30 degrees, which maintained its azimuth while the deputies' object was moving east on Rte. 111. Therefore Buchert's observation is irrelevant as far as disconfirmation of the deputies' sighting goes.
3. ". . . after again reviewing the statements submitted by all of the persons involved. . ." Letter makes no reference to statements in Major Quintanilla's possession by: Officer Wayne Huston, East Palestine Police  
Officer Frank Panzanella, Conway Police  
Deputy Sheriff Robert Wilson, Portage County

Huston, listening to radio traffic during the chase, waited for and observed coming toward him from the northwest, the object Spaur and Neff were chasing. He joined in pursuit. Frank Panzanella watched the object approach, and saw it move out over Conway, Pa., to hover, when the three officers arrived and stopped to watch it with him. Wilson was Spaur's radio operator in Ravenna.

Furthermore, testimony was available to Major Quintanilla from the following:

- Radio operator Jack Cramer, Salem Police
- Radio operator Orville Scarry, Columbiana County Sheriff's Office
- Radio operator John Bieghy, Rochester Police
- Officer Lonnie Johnson, Salem Police
- Officer Ray Esterly, Salem Police
- Lieutenant Richard Whinnery, Salem Police
- Deputy Sheriff Dave Brothers, Columbiana County
- Officer Henry Kwaitanowski, Economy Borough Police

While these men were not interviewed directly by Major Quintanilla, their testimony, in signed statements, is part of the Blue Book file and was accepted as such from William Weitzel, NICAP, by Colonel Florian A. Holm, Commander, Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson. Furthermore, Major Quintanilla admitted this testimony into the record by sending it to Dr. J. Allen Hynek for review, as part of the Blue Book file. (Letter from Colonel Holm August 3; statement by Major Quintanilla August 5.) Furthermore, a statement by Lieutenant Stephen Paquette, Oakdale Radar Installation, is relevant and was not, likewise, taken into account. (See Point 10. Paquette's information included in NICAP report)

4. "He stated that the object was right over the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. . ." Not only does this contradict the major's explanation of "Venus," it was not reported by any of the witnesses. They testified they saw the object hovering over the Northern Lights Shopping Center, in Conway, Pennsylvania. The direction of this shopping center is almost 90° from that of GPA.
5. ". . . and that an aircraft had flown directly over the object." Spaur stated the aircraft flew under the object. From the May 10 hearing transcript: ". . . we watched it, it went up, stopped, the airliner went under it, and then it went straight up." Source of over may be the FAA report, which does say this. But this report was written third hand, from Frank Panzanella through John Bieghy. From the second hand point of view, Panzanella stated the airliner went under. This is significant, because the FAA asked the pilot to look underneath his plane. Furthermore, see Point 6.

6. The letter obscures the point that the FAA was involved to the extent of identifying the airliner reported and asking the pilot to look underneath. From the FAA log, it is clear that the FAA did not believe the object to be reported as hovering over GPA.
7. "Spaur's statement is purely subjective and impossible to duplicate." This is extremely vague, pejorative, and counter to fact under any interpretation. Spaur's statement is easy to duplicate. NICAP's report includes a transcript of his May 10 statement to Major Quintanilla. The only way, or sense, in which Spaur's statement can be legitimately called "subjective" is that it resulted from an observation made by a subject. But that is ridiculous. It is definitely not "subjective" if this means, "lacking objective support." Spaur's observation was corroborated by independent observers (see Point 3). The letter contradicts itself in paragraph two: Neff's statement was exactly the same as Spaur's, it says. This reference to Spaur's statement, furthermore, narrows down his testimony to a brief period of observation, the very end of the sighting. What other purpose can this restrictive, selective and pejorative reference serve, than to discredit Spaur's testimony?
8. ". . . after again reviewing. . . it was determined. . ." Who determined? Prior to the time of Congressman Stanton's request, which this letter answers, (or, rather, to which this letter is a reply), Major Quintanilla disclaimed all responsibility for "again reviewing" the case, which he said he had put in the hands of Colonel Stephen DeGoes and Dr. J. Allen Hynek. If these men concurred, he stated, the conclusion would be changed to "unknown." Dr. Hynek was mailed the Blue Book case file, including the 126-page NICAP report, to his vacation home in Canada, and asked for an evaluation. Major Quintanilla stated previously (in an interview published about June 8, 1966) that Dr. Hynek passes final judgment on all "astronomical" conclusions. Dr. Hynek has gone on public record as having examined the entire case file, including the NICAP report, and as disagreeing with the Blue Book conclusion. Who is responsible for this re-evaluation? Is it Colonel Mims?
9. ". . . he asked the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) radar controller if they could make contact." Spaur did not make this request, after seeing the object hover over Conway (or, as Colonel Mims incorrectly states, after seeing it hover over Greater Pittsburgh Airport.) He did ask, while in pursuit, that planes be sent up to observe the object. While watching it hover, Frank Panzanella made a similar request. The deputies and other officers, after this request had been made, heard a voice over their radio (in Panzanella's car) say, "They have it on radar, and they're sending two up." This entire paragraph (number four in the letter) gives an erroneous account -- by sequence, source of testimony, and by fact -- of Spaur's involvement. It is this paragraph, not Spaur's testimony, that is subjective.
10. Oakdale's report is said to have been negative. How relevant is this? The Oakdale UFO investigating officer and radar operator Lieutenant Stephen Paquette, told William Weitzel that he would not have expected Oakdale's radar to respond, considering the object's reported location.
11. ". . . at daybreak, the object disappeared within a matter of two or three seconds while traveling through a 90-degree arc." Thus, the letter implies, lack of a sonic boom means no object was seen. Does this mean Spaur was lying when he testified on May 10 to Major Quintanilla, ". . . it went up, stopped, the airliner went under it, and then it went straight up. Just as straight up as, well, straight up." What other impression can this passage in the letter give, than that Spaur was not telling the truth?

12. "... the Air Force is not questioning the integrity of any of the observers." Why, then, is their testimony discounted? Not only did they tell Major Quintanilla over a dozen things on May 10 that contradict the "satellite -- Venus" conclusion, but many other observers, not mentioned in this letter, but whose testimony Blue Book has in its files (see Point 3), corroborated and added to this testimony. If their integrity is not being questioned in discounting their statements, why are their statements discounted? On May 17, William Weitzel wrote Major Quintanilla a letter asking for specific explanations, for particular parts of testimony, why each part was discounted. There has been no answer to this request. The major's July 15 reply said, in effect, "I have looked at them fairly." His letter asked questions which Weitzel had answered in his May 17 letter, for example, Why was Venus not reported? If it had been reported, "new light would have been shed on the case." Weitzel had quoted from the May 10 transcript, showing that Venus had been reported, and drew a diagram based on a photo and diagram obtained early from Spaur. The diagram, the transcribed comments, the points raised were ignored. See separate document for this list of points contradicting the major's explanation, taken from the transcript. (Not out of context; the transcript and tape, unedited were also submitted.)
13. Why is this letter written by Colonel Mims? Congressman Stanton had gotten Congressional Inquiry Division letters before, and because of his dissatisfaction with them, wrote his request to Major Quintanilla directly.
14. The importance of the May 10 testimony cannot be minimized. According to Lieutenant Marley, Major Quintanilla's assistant in Project Blue Book, the major prefers to heed only the testimony collected by him on April 17. (Lieutenant Marley's statement made to William Weitzel on August 12.) This early investigation by the major plays a strange role in his evaluation: It lasted less than three minutes, according to Deputy Spaur, and was an interview of Deputy Spaur only.
- According to former Air Force Community Relations Branch Director, Lt. Col. John Spaulding, the major's early investigation was poorly done; thus Colonel Spaulding had the major go to Ravenna for a more thorough investigation.
- In Ravenna, on May 10, the major told Spaur the information he collected May 10 was identical with that collected April 17. The Ravenna hearing involved two hours of testimony, presented orally and in writing.
- A single-spaced typewritten transcript of this testimony is 17 pages long. How can the 2 or 3 minutes of interviewing April 17 outweigh this?
15. GENERAL COMMENT: This letter from Colonel Mims indicates that Blue Book -- specifically, Major Quintanilla and the unknown re-evaluator -- overlooked corroborating testimony resting in Blue Book's files. It focuses on Dale Spaur as the chief witness, and belittles his testimony, with pejorative and erroneous references.

William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

October 4, 1966

45 Congress St.  
Bradford, Pa. 16701

October 4, 1966

Colonel R. R. Hippler  
Deputy Chief of Staff for  
Research and Development  
Air Force Systems Command  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Hippler:

Our conversation of two months ago (August 5) encourages me to write this letter. Because the operations of Project Blue Book are within your official concern, I believe the following matter will be of interest to you. I am also hopeful that you can advise me as to appropriate further action.

As the investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in the "Ravenna Case," the chase of a low-flying aerial object from Ohio into Pennsylvania on April 17, 1966, I have had intensive interviews with over a dozen witnesses and radio operators concerned, and have followed closely the course of Major Quintanilla's investigation. His initial evaluation seemed based on such a cursory examination of the evidence, that Congressman William Stanton complained to Colonel Spaulding, then chief of the Air Force's Community Relations Branch. Colonel Spaulding admitted that the major's efforts had been inadequate, and persuaded him to visit Ravenna for a thorough interview with the witnesses from that area. At this hearing, held May 10 in the Portage County Court House, the major listened politely to two hours of testimony, but reiterated his original conclusion -- that Deputy Sheriffs Spaur and Neff had chased Venus for 73 miles, after observing the passage of an Echo satellite. The major ignored so many crucial points that I felt constrained to follow the matter further, and eventually (June 28) submitted a 126-page report to NICAP.

I also wrote to Major Quintanilla, asking how he reconciled over twelve points of testimony, which I taped with his permission May 10, with his explanation. He replied on July 15, not answering any of my questions, but indicating beyond doubt that he had not taken his May 10 interviews into account. For example, the witnesses testified that, initially, the object had come from the southeast, moved directly overhead and hovered, illuminating the road so brightly that they could not look at the light directly. Its size was, they said, as big as a house fifty feet distant. This part of the sighting, the major says, was due to an artificial satellite traveling from northwest to southeast.

During the chase, the deputies observed the object due north, due east, and due south at various times. It lit up the ground underneath it with a spot of light that moved behind it. It had a projection from the rear, and the top was a dull metallic finish. Part of the time, Neff had to lean close to the windshield to see the object almost directly overhead. This, the major says, was Venus.

They also testified three times on May 10 that they had seen the object in addition to Venus, for some time before the terminus of the sighting. Just before the object moved up and out of sight, it was to the left of the moon; Venus, to the right. In the major's July 15 letter to me, he stated that, had the men reported seeing Venus, "new light would have been shed on the case." This unwitting pun reveals his lack of attention to the facts. I even drew him a diagram of the moon-Venus-object positions, in my May 17 letter.

I found this lack of attention incredible. Feeling it was hopeless to pursue the matter further with the major, I wrote to Colonel Freeman, Colonel DeGoes (working in Project Blue Book) and Dr. James McDonald (working with the Project), and General Cruikshank, then FTD Commander. I sent a copy of my NICAP report to Colonel DeGoes. In early August, I received a note from Colonel Florian Holm, the new FTD Commander, to the effect that my correspondence was appreciated. Nothing was said about the specific points that required answering. Dr. McDonald told me, however, that Major Quintanilla had told him he was going to reconsider the case, and that he had asked Dr. Hynek for his opinion. This was interesting, in that the major had told a newspaper reporter (Carol Clapp, Ravenna Record-Courier) over two months ago that Dr. Hynek passes final judgment on all "astronomical" conclusions. At any rate, this news encouraged me to call Colonel Freeman; he referred me to you. This was August 5th.

The same day, I talked with Major Quintanilla, and he told me he had mailed Dr. Hynek the Air Force case file, including my NICAP report, and had requested his opinion. He disclaimed all responsibility for altering the "satellite - Venus" conclusion, and said this would be entirely up to Dr. Hynek and Colonel DeGoes.

On August 12, Lieutenant Marley, the major's assistant, told me that the major and Colonel DeGoes had read the NICAP report and were "standing firm" in their opinion, the major's original evaluation. He also told me the major was not taking the May 10 testimony into account, but was sticking with what he found out initially. This initial investigation was the one about which Congressman Stanton had complained; it lasted less than three minutes, and consisted of one phone call, to Deputy Spaur. Lieutenant Marley stated he knew nothing of Dr. Hynek's opinion; that Dr. Hynek was in Canada. The major had said he'd mailed the case material to Dr. Hynek, at his summer place in Blind River, Ontario.

Dr. Hynek's opinion was published a few days later, in the Ravenna Record-Courier. He said he had never been officially consulted, but that he had read all the material, including the NICAP report, and could not agree with the Air Force's conclusion.

Major Quintanilla refuses to do anything more on this case, Colonel Hippler. He has pointedly ignored Dr. Hynek's solicited opinion. He has ignored testimony emphasized to him in painful detail on May 10. He has ignored the corroboration of two other eyewitnesses, police officers, one of whom saw the object approaching and followed it with the deputies. He has ignored my presentations. He has ignored corroborating testimony, in signed statements in the NICAP report, from police radio operators who listened to the radio traffic during the chase. He has, in short, ignored every aspect of this case which threatens his original hasty conclusion. This, despite his claims that he never disbelieves a witness, that certain testimony (which was, in fact, offered) might change his mind, and that Dr. Hynek passes final judgment on all "astronomical" conclusions.

The major's behavior has engendered discouragement among the police officers involved. It has engendered incredulity in others, including myself, that events could take such a turn. I have written twice to Colonel Holm, with no reply. The men in Blue Book, or involved in that program, seem inaccessible to reasonable discussion.

I have interrupted this letter to examine and comment on a letter recently sent from Colonel Hayden Sims to Congressman Stanton. This letter reinforces what I have said.

I would appreciate some comments from you as soon as possible, Colonel Hippler. What steps can you take, or what steps might I take, to bring about a fair review of this deplorable situation?

Sincerely yours,

*(signed)*

William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

Enclosures

- May 17 letter to Major Quintanilla, page 3, showing relative positions of Venus-moon-UFO, at terminus of sighting
- June 12 list of points submitted to Major Quintanilla in May 17 letter, from letter this date to Congressman Stanton
- June 28 NICAP report, page from table of contents listing testimony
- August 16 editorial from Ravenna Record-Courier
- August 17 article from Record-Courier
- August 23 NICAP summary, USAF disposition of April 17 sighting case
- August 26 letter from Record-Courier
- August 30 letter to Colonel Florian A. Holm
- September 13 letter to Colonel Holm
- September 30 letter from Colonel Hayden P. Mims to Congressman Stanton
- October 4, comments on Mims' letter by William Weitzel

Copy sent to

Congressman William Stanton  
Mr. James Bersie  
Sheriff Ross Dustman  
Judge Robert Cook  
Dr. James McDonald  
Colonel Florian A. Holm  
Colonel Hayden P. Mims  
Colonel George Freeman

15 Congress St.  
Bradford, Pa. 16701

October 5, 1966

Colonel George Freeman, Chief  
Community Relations Branch  
Room 4A120  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Freeman:

The enclosed copies of correspondence and news articles should be of interest to you. They concern the "Ravenna Case," the chase of a low-flying aerial object from Portage County, Ohio, to Conway, Pennsylvania on April 17 of this year. I am sure you are familiar with this case.

My reason for being involved in this issue, over a re-evaluation of the conclusion offered by Major Quintanilla, stems from the investigation I conducted of the sighting as a representative of NICAP. From the point of view of the witnesses and others involved in the sighting, and of those who have reviewed the available testimony, including Dr. Hynek, the major's conclusion fails to explain the details of the sighting. I am concerned that, to all appearances, the testimony is being ignored or discounted in favor of the major's early conclusion.

I hope you find this information of interest.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel, Chairman  
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

Enclosures

August 16 editorial from Ravenna Record-Courier  
August 17 article from Record-Courier  
August 23 NICAP summary, USAF disposition of April 17 case  
August 26 letter from Record-Courier  
August 30 letter to Colonel Florian Holm (unanswered)  
September 13 letter to Colonel Holm (unanswered)  
September 30 letter from Colonel Hayden P. Mims to Congressman Stanton  
October 4 comments on Colonel Mims' letter by William Weitzel  
October 4 letter to Colonel R. R. Hippler

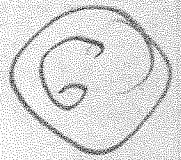
Copy sent to

Congressman William Stanton  
Mr. James Bersie

Mrs. Helen Groskopf  
Hartman, Arkansas  
72840

MEMO

UFO



October 27, 1966

Professor Philip J. Klass of the University of Iowa appeared as a special guest on the TODAY TV show this morning. He will be questioned at the upcoming hearings on UFOs at the University of Colorado. He contends that the UFOs are actually a type of chemical reaction in the air, and that this same type of phenomena can be reproduced in laboratory test tubes.

Professor Klass did not say whether or not the phenomena he reproduces in the laboratory have rotating blinking lights and windows.

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From my Memo to Gerald K. Ford, dated October 10, 1966:

"Unless the investigators recognize the actual existence of ether and etheric substance and unless they recognize the actual existence of other dimensions of time and space then this investigation will be a complete waste of everyone's time as well as \$300,000 of the taxpayer's money.

H.C.

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UFO

430 East Lancaster Avenue  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087  
November 21, 1966

N/A

The President  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

For years I have been extremely interested in all phases of scientific advance. This is especially so when it comes to "Unidentified Flying Objects."

Recently I have been doing a considerable amount of reading about UFOs. Everything I read specifically illustrates numerous instances where scientists have irrevocably proved that many of the statements released by the United States Government concerning UFOs are openly fallacious. The scientists, and the people who have read their reports, laugh at the United States Government. As an individual who believes in our form of government, this is quite embarrassing.

As is obvious from my writing to you directly, I am a person of great curiosity. I would sincerely appreciate an answer as to what information and conclusions have been established by the United States Government (or any agency thereof) on the subject of UFOs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Karen I. Hanisch  
(Mrs. Rudolf Hanisch)

cc: Representative Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

Director of Public Information  
United States Air Force  
Pentagon  
Washington, D. C.

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