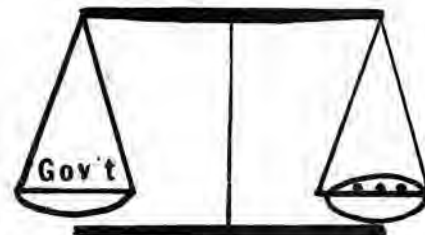


JUST CAUSE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY (CAUS), Inc.
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CIA RELEASES DOCUMENTS—GSW PREVAILS IN FOIA LAWSUIT

As the result of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit originally filed in September 1977 by Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has released approximately 900 pages of its own UFO-related files and forwarded nearly 200 additional documents back to the originating agencies in the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency and the State Department for clearance.

The material from the CIA's files was released on Dec. 15, 1978, in accordance with a court-ordered stipulation filed in U.S. District Court, Washington, D.C. The stipulation, which was made a court order by U.S. Judge John Pratt on September 18, 1978, granted the Agency 90 days to search 41 of its components specified by GSW.

In the course of its alleged search, the CIA evidently located the documents it sent back to the originating agencies. This material seems to consist of around 700 or more pages, and it is being released on a document-by-document basis, as each is declassified and cleared.

According to the covering letter of U.S. Attorney William Briggs, the CIA returned the following UFO documents to the originators: Air Force-76; Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)-19; Army-30; Navy-11; State Department-40; and National Security Agency (NSA)-18.

VICTORY FOR GSW

The release of the CIA material represents a total victory for GSW, in that the suit initially sought the release of five documents related to the CIA's contact with former Marine Ralph Mayher. In March 1976 the Agency admitted having five Mayher documents, but said it could only release two, with about 70% of each deleted in accordance with exemptions (b) (1)—related to classified information—and (b) (3)—related to revealing intelligence sources and methods. The remaining three

documents could not be released at all, said the CIA, in accordance with the same exemptions.

Furthermore, the CIA's 1976 covering letter to GSW Director Bill Spaulding said: "At no time prior to the formation of the Robertson Panel (Jan. '53) and at no time subsequent to the issuance of the Panel's report has the CIA engaged in the study of the UFO phenomena. The Robertson Panel Report is summation of the Agency's interest and involvement in this matter (UFOs)."

Although the CIA had refused to declassify the Mayher documents and thereby forced GSW to file an FOIA lawsuit, the entire five documents were released on Dec. 15th with only minor deletions. This, alone, would mean that GSW has prevailed—i.e., forced the sought-after documents to be released, and without even presenting an argument to the court. Seemingly, therefore, the CIA's original claimed exemptions were arbitrary and capricious, and the Agency apparently felt its claims would be easily defeated in court—which is what GSW representatives have contended all along.

The GSW victory is further attested to by the release of nearly 900 pages of UFO material the CIA denied having. Or, in the words of an Omni magazine columnist, "hypothetical, alleged secret UFO files." These documents belie the CIA's oft-repeated claims of non-involvement with UFOs.

CIA STUDIES UFOS DURING FLAPS

Careful analysis of the CIA material reveals the CIA initiated at least three separate studies of UFOs: in April 1952, in November 1957, and in January 1965. (The "official" CIA study in 1952 began in August; however, testimony from reliable sources indicates Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) employee Fred (Contd. Page 2, right column)

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Editor: W. Todd Zechel
 Assistant Editor: Brad C. Sparks
 Associate Editor: Larry W. Bryant
 Consulting Editor: Richard Hall
 Legal Advisor: Peter A. Gersten

Mail Address: P.O. Box 4743, Arlington,
 VA 22204 (703-920-0593)

Office: CAUS, Attn: Peter Gersten, 191
 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY 10451
 (212-992-9600)

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MUFON MEMBERS AID CAUS

The response by members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) to an article by CAUS Director Todd Zechel in a recent issue of The MUFON UFO JOURNAL has been most encouraging.

Zechel's article had pleaded for financial and moral support for FOIA suits such as GSW's and ones CAUS intends to file in the near future. The CAUS Director related that the GSW suit had been successfully carried out mainly through the efforts and sacrifices of three or four people. UFOlogy as a whole had pretty much stayed back and awaited the outcome.

Zechel also disclosed Citizens Against UFO Secrecy intends to file FOIA lawsuits against Department of Defense components, and included in these suits will be requests for documents related to the recovery of a so-called "crashed saucer" by elements of the USAF.

CAUS legal advisor Peter Gersten says he intends to handle the forthcoming FOIA actions, including the "crashed saucer" requests, and will file actions after the CIA has produced an affidavit detailing the search of its files and the documents it's withholding.

MUFON members have contributed much-needed funds to these efforts, and CAUS wishes to express its deep gratitude.

CIA-contd- Durant, posing as a civilian, befriended Major Dewey Fournet and Captain Ed Ruppelt in order for the CIA to gain access to the Air Force's UFO data as early as April 1952.)

The CIA's interest in UFOs was seemingly increased whenever a "flap" occurred (i.e., whenever there was a flurry of UFO activity around the country or around Washington, D.C.). Between flaps, the Agency was a so-called "passive recipient" of UFO reports.

The summer flap of 1952 seems to have caused the CIA the most worry. Office of Scientific Intelligence officers such as Marshall Chadwell, Ransom Eng and Phil Strong presented papers to the Director of Central Intelligence, Gen. W.B. Smith, expressing deep concern--to the point of Chadwell calling for a CIA policy to be formulated to prevent "panic."

The CIA's 1952 study culminated in the Robertson Panel, which met for 4 days in January 1953 in order to determine if UFOs "represented a direct, hostile threat to national security." Although many observers have contended the Robertson Panel's report, which recommended debunking UFOs, demonstrated the CIA was responsible for the so-called "cover-up," the evidence seems to indicate it was the Air Force that engineered the "cover-up" and was guilty of withholding significant evidence from the CIA. Just how significant that evidence was will be brought to light in forthcoming legal actions taken by CAUS.

Not much is known about the CIA's 1957 study, except that it resulted from a "request from 'The Hill'." Evidently, this means either a Senator or Congressman, or groups thereof, requested the CIA to look into UFOs. In any case, on November 6, 1957, the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence levied a requirement on the Contact Division to collect information on UFOs and forward the data to OSI. (The Contact Division, later called the Domestic Contact Service and now known as the Domestic Collection Division, is a domestic intelligence network with offices

in most American major cities, and more recently in most smaller ones as well. Ostensibly, the purpose of this division is to interview Americans who have returned from travel abroad, particularly in countries such as the Soviet Union. Since the CIA is prohibited by law and charter from engaging in domestic spying, it has received only tacit approval from the Executive Branch and Congress to have a domestic component engaged in collecting foreign intelligence. However, the CIA's willingness to utilize the domestic offices to collect information on UFOs, and the relative ease with which it managed to conduct these programs, keeping in mind that domestic agents of this component usually identify themselves by CIA ID and use real names, certainly indicates the Agency could and may well have used the domestic collection offices for a variety of purposes not related to foreign intelligence.)

OSI's 1957 levy specified the Contact Division UFO data had to be forwarded to CIA headquarters by November 14th. Although the order to collect UFO data went out to at least 15 cities, the only reports released to GSW deal with the CIA's contact with UFO photographer Ralph Mayher—which CAUS and GSW officials were already aware of. It seems the Cleveland Contact Division office's attention was drawn to Mayher by a newspaper article that appeared on November 6, 1957. The article reprinted a still photo from the UFO film that Mayher shot on July 29, 1952 (the same day an Air Force press conference announced the Washington, D.C., radar/visual sightings were attributable to "temperature inversions").

Mayher had turned his film over to the Marines on the same night it was made. On the following day, the 30th, the film was developed in a civilian processing lab associated with a Miami TV station. Although no copies were made of the 16mm film, the processing technicians did manage to run off two sets of seven or eight frames, one of which was given to Mayher. The other set was retained by the TV station, WTVJ, and later confiscated by the

Marines and subsequently transmitted to the Air Force.

The film itself was turned over to Major William Frazier of Air Force Intelligence on July 31, 1952. Frazier sent the film to Air Force Intelligence in the Pentagon, and that's the last anyone outside the Air Force has seen or heard about the film. It is not available in the National Archives, where all UFO evidence collected by the Air Force is allegedly deposited.

On November 7, 1957, Mayher was contacted by an agent from the Cleveland domestic Contact office. The agent interviewed Mayher about his sighting and was given five still photos to be analyzed by the CIA. In December, the photos were returned to Mayher by another agent, but no analysis results were disclosed. Contact Division memos, however, indicate the film photos were analyzed at "high levels" of the Agency, the results of which were not made known even to the Contact personnel.

When the photos were returned to Mayher, he asked the agent for permission to state the CIA had shown an interest in his film and had analyzed frames of it. This permission was denied by the CIA representative, and Mayher was asked to keep his contact with the Agency confidential. Later, however, Mayher discussed his CIA contacts with Major Donald Keyhoe, Director of NICAP. Keyhoe subsequently wrote several letters to the Director of Central Intelligence, complaining that Mayher had been silenced. Keyhoe's letters put the CIA on the spot, but they managed to send him several evasive replies and Keyhoe eventually dropped his interest in the matter.

Missing from the CIA material released to GSW are the analysis of the Mayher photos, other reports generated by the Contact Division, conclusions or evaluations of the data collected, and summary reports issued to whoever requested the study in the first place.

The CIA documents reflect the Agency periodically demonstrated an interest in NICAP (the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena), a group headquartered in Washington, D.C. Thus,

it seems appropriate that the Agency turned to NICAP for information on UFOs when another study was requested on January 19, 1965. This time, the request came from the Director of Central Intelligence, based, apparently, over concern about the flap of sightings in and around Washington, D.C., during December 1964 and January 1965. Included in the flap was a sighting made by Army Security Agency personnel in a downtown Washington, D.C., office.

The same day the new UFO study was ordered by DCI, the 19th, an Office of Scientific Intelligence officer called the Washington-area Domestic Contact Service office and requested agent Al Coleman to obtain UFO reports from NICAP. During Coleman's briefing, the OSI official told him the group was headed by Major "William Kehoe," who the OSI said had retired some three years earlier to form NICAP—a group he was no longer associated with, added the OSI man. (Obviously, the OSI briefing amounted to a farce, since almost everything which was said about NICAP and "Kehoe" was totally in error.)

Coleman subsequently phoned NICAP and made an appointment to see Richard H. Hall, Assistant Director and the real power behind the throne, on the same day. Keyhoe, author of a number of books and articles depicting a massive cover up of UFO evidence by the Air Force, was frequently absent from NICAP's office and Hall usually handled management of the flourishing organization and its enviable sub-committee reporting network, which Hall had established.

Coleman met with Hall later that afternoon in NICAP's Connecticut Ave. office. After a friendly chat, Coleman asked for and was given UFO sighting reports pertaining to incidents which had occurred recently in the Washington area. Coleman also requested to be kept posted on ensuing developments and gave Hall several phone numbers where he could be reached. Later, Hall phoned Coleman to ask if he was interested in more UFO reports; the DCS agent said he was, and Hall sent the new data

to a Washington, D.C., post office box. Weeks later, all the reports were returned to NICAP with a covering letter by Coleman thanking Hall for his cooperation, but without further comment about the reports themselves.

While the documents released to GSW reveal the CIA was considering granting Hall a security clearance and using him as a full-time source on UFOs, no analyses of the reports Hall provided were released; nor were reports that seemingly would have been sent by other DCS offices.

In general, it appears the CIA has rather carefully selected the material it has thus far released, disclosing basically only those documents which relate to CIA involvement CAUS and GSW officials were previously aware of and could establish in a court of law.

At the conclusion of its 90-day search, the CIA was supposed to have submitted an affidavit detailing its search of files, listing the documents it intends to withhold and accounting for each deletion it made in the released material with an appropriate exemption under the Freedom of Information Act. All that was provided to GSW, however, was a covering letter stating the Agency intends to withhold 57 documents. Subsequently, the CIA went to U.S. District Judge John Pratt and obtained a 60-day extension to prepare the affidavit. Pratt granted the extension without offering GSW's attorney an opportunity to present an argument.

In the meantime, CAUS Director of Research Brad Sparks has determined that over 200 documents are directly referenced in the material released—all seemingly related to UFOs—and remain unaccounted for. In other words, the CIA "didn't find" at least 200 documents it should have. Furthermore, Sparks asserts the released material derives from only 4 of the 41 components GSW requested to be searched, indicating 37 components weren't searched or that not one single document was found in them, whichever you prefer.

Even more puzzling—and angering—

is the fact CAUS Director Todd Zechel received a letter from the CIA in August 1978 informing him the Agency had just located "1,000 additional pages of UFO material." A follow-up phone call by Zechel to CIA Information & Privacy Coordinator Charles Savage determined the 1,000 pages were mostly Office of Scientific Intelligence files which had been located in the retired archives. Furthermore, phone calls between GSW attorney Peter Gersten and U.S. Attorney William Briggs led CAUS officials to believe the CIA had located in excess of 5,000 documents. The conversations between Gersten and Briggs took place after the court-ordered search of files supposedly began on September 18th, and more than a month after the CIA had said in a letter it had already located "1,000 additional pages."

Thus, there are very serious questions remaining about the validity of the CIA's alleged search of files. If there has been any misrepresentation, the fault lies totally with the Agency and the U.S. Attorney. Moreover, the CIA's haste in releasing the documents to the public—including a substantial number of news media organizations—without accounting for its deletions, as is required by law, without preparing its affidavit as required by the court, and without taking steps to protect the rights of a number of civilians named in the documents, gives every indication the CIA was more than anxious to dump the material in order to fulfill a disinformation purpose. This contention seems to be supported by the fact not one person other than those associated directly with CAUS has been able to determine the extent of the CIA's involvement with UFOs from reading the documents. The facts, as stated in this article, are there; however, one is required to be an expert in order to interpret and decipher them, apparently.

NSA AND STATE DEPT. WITHHOLD REPORTS

Most of the documents sent back to the originating agency by the CIA, in conjunction with GSW's suit, are gradually being released. However, at least

two agencies—the State Department and the National Security Agency (NSA)—have declared certain documents to be classified and might not be released.

The State Department had informed GSW attorney Peter Gersten that 8 UFO reports were under review for declassification. Subsequently, three were released. However, questions remain as to how many documents were actually returned.

Roy Banner, Chief, Policy Staff, National Security Agency, wrote to Gersten on Jan. 9, 1979, regarding the 18 UFO reports the CIA returned to NSA, and declared: "We cannot provide you access to, or release a copy of, the information because it is classified and therefore exempt from access or release pursuant to Title 5 USC 552 (b) (1). The information is currently and properly classified in accordance with the criteria for classification in section 1-3 of Executive Order 12065, and paragraph 2-202 of Department of Defense Regulation 5200.1-R."

"The information is also exempt from access or release pursuant to Title 5 USC 552 (b) (3), which provides that the FOIA does not apply to matters that are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute. The applicable statutes in this case are Title 18 USC 798, Title 50 USC 403 (d) (3), and Public Law 86-36," Banner added.

*Editor's Note: This will come as quite a shock to a noted UFO skeptic who has often contended intelligence agencies such as NSA couldn't possibly have classified UFO reports, and called anyone who said they did a liar. UFOlogy, of course, won't be the least bit shocked the skeptic has once again been proven wrong!

NI-CIA-AP OR NICAP?

When space propulsion researcher T. Townsend Brown founded the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in October 1956, at least two CIA covert agents worked themselves into key positions with the organization. One, an ultra-mysterious character named "Count" Nicolas de Rochefort, was a Russian immigrant and employee of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff, where the "Count"

wrote scripts in French and Russian for Voice of America radio broadcasts, among other covert missions. "Count" de Rochefort managed to get himself appointed Vice-Chairman of NICAP in late 1956.

The "Count" was a controversial ultra-right-winger and a leading force in the lobbying effort to prevent Red China from being recognized or admitted to the U.N. For covers (visible employment to mask his CIA involvement), he utilized professorships at Georgetown and American Universities, as well as claiming to be an escort interpreter with the State Department.

The other CIA agent was an even more mysterious person named Bernard J. O. Carvalho, a native of Lisbon, Portugal. Among other missions, Carvalho had been a cut-out (go-between) man for such CIA proprietaries (secretly owned companies) as Fairway Corporation, a charter airline utilized by Agency executives. He managed to get himself appointed to chairman of the group's (NICAP's) membership subcommittee, a key position.

Since the Air Force had been interested in Townsend Brown's propulsion theories back in the early '50s, as Project Blue Book records attest, one might expect the CIA was interested as well (from a research & development point of view). Additionally, because of the Air Force's and CIA's concern over the potential subversiveness of UFO groups, as articulated by the Robertson Panel Report in 1953, one might well expect to find covert CIA agents infiltrating a newly-founded, Washington-based UFO organization.

Obviously, since de Rochefort is dead and Carvalho hasn't been heard from in many, many years, the exact nature of the two agents' roles in NICAP may never be learned. One writer who attempted to obtain confirmation of de Rochefort's CIA employment through the Freedom of Information Act, ended up losing an expensive FOIA lawsuit when the U.S. District Judge upheld the CIA's "can neither confirm nor deny" posture on covert employees. But there is more than ample evidence to conclusively establish both de Rochefort and Carvalho were at least during certain

periods of their lives covert employees of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Because Townshend Brown was mostly a dreamer with ambitions loftier than he could even hope to fulfill (such as publishing at least two monthly magazines and a salary structure for the NICAP staff that many corporations would have envied), he was stripped of his leadership position in January 1957 and Major (USMC-Ret.) Donald Keyhoe was appointed President of NICAP.

Keyhoe had entered the flying saucer fray with guns blazing away by writing an article entitled "The Flying Saucers Are Real," which appeared in the January 1950 edition of True magazine. An Annapolis graduate and former aviation writer, he gave respect to the theory the government—specifically the Air Force—was covering up the truth about UFOs; that the government knew UFOs were extraterrestrial visitors but decided not to tell the public out of fear of panic.

Evidently because Keyhoe's attacks on the government excluded the CIA and were mostly barbs hurled at the Air Force and the so-called "Silence Group" within it, shortly after assuming the reins of NICAP he managed to induce Vice-Admiral (USN-Ret.) Roscoe Hillenkoetter, former and original Director of the CIA (1947-50), to join NICAP's Board of Governors. Hillenkoetter was a classmate of Keyhoe's at the Naval Academy, and his service as a figurehead on Keyhoe's chosen board gave the organization and Keyhoe a tremendous boost in credibility.

Hillenkoetter told Keyhoe privately that the CIA had been interested in UFOs from the very beginning (June 1947) of the reports, and kept a watchful eye on the subject despite the lack of directives to do so. He also allowed himself to be quoted as saying: "The Air Force has constantly misled the American public about UFOs...I urge Congressional action to reduce the danger from secrecy."

In 1961, Keyhoe began sending his "proof" of UFO "reality, censorship and the increasing hazards of secrecy" to Congress, hoping to initiate an investigation by the House Science and

Astronautics Committee. In May of 1961 the House Space Committee formed a subcommittee to look into UFOs. In August Keyhoe sent the committee members a statement signed by Hillenkoetter. "Acting with the majority of the NICAP Board of Governors, I urge immediate Congressional action to reduce the dangers from secrecy about UFOs," Hillenkoetter said.

He listed the dangers as: "The risk of accidental war, from mistaking UFO formations for a Soviet surprise attack. (2) The danger that the Soviet government may, in a critical moment, falsely claim the UFOs as secret Russian weapons against which our defenses are helpless."

By early 1962, Keyhoe was well on the way to forcing Congress to open hearings on UFOs and the Air Force's means of dealing with the subject. Even though much of Keyhoe's evidence was predicated on confidential informers he couldn't be certain would testify, he was counting on Hillenkoetter's willingness to make condemnations of Air Force UFO policies to carry the day. But suddenly Hillenkoetter pulled the rug out from under him by abruptly resigning from the Board, and Keyhoe's Congressional investigation collapsed faster than a three-story house of cards.

Hillenkoetter's letter of resignation said: "In my opinion, NICAP's investigation has gone as far as possible. I know UFOs are not U.S. or Soviet devices. ...The Air Force cannot do any more under the circumstances...and I believe we should not continue to criticize their investigations..."

Since Hillenkoetter's letter represented an almost total reversal from his earlier positions, Keyhoe has long suspected the Admiral was pressured by the CIA and/or the Air Force to drop out of the picture and quit making troublesome statements. But until the GSW FOIA lawsuit, Keyhoe's suspicions remained unconfirmed.

Without going into details at the present time, CAUS has determined that Hillenkoetter was in fact pressured by the Agency at the behest of the Air Force, which communicated a number of complaints about Hillenkoetter's role in NICAP to high-level Agency officials.

But while the CIA and Air Force put extensive pressure on a former CIA Director in order to persuade him to drop his involvement with NICAP, another Board member who held a high-level position in the CIA apparently wasn't pressured at all and remains on the Board to this day. His name is Col. (USAF-Ret.) Joseph Bryan, III. He is the founder and original Chief of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff (1947-53).

And until CAUS's DoR Brad C. Sparks uncovered Bryan's covert employment with the CIA during the course of his interviews with former CIA employees, very few people—including Keyhoe—knew of Bryan's CIA connections. But Bryan has now confirmed these connections in interviews with CAUS Director Todd Zechel in 1977 and 1978.

Bryan approached Keyhoe in late 1959, asking to see some of his "really hot cases." Since Bryan was ostensibly an Air Force officer, Keyhoe immediately suspected an AF plot to infiltrate his organization, and he resisted the Colonel's advances. However, Bryan soon put Keyhoe's mind at ease by allowing himself to be publicly quoted as saying: "The UFOs are interplanetary devices systematically observing the Earth, either manned or remote-controlled, or both. Information on UFOs has been officially withheld. This policy is dangerous."

Contrast Bryan's statement to Keyhoe, which led to his being invited to serve on the Board of Governors, to the one he made in March 1977, describing his reason for joining NICAP: "I thought the government was neglecting it, was turning its back on it, closing its eyes to it, and I thought somebody ought to take over—and express an interest in it. Don Keyhoe, whom I respected and admired very much, seemed to be the leader in this thing so I joined up with him."

While admitting to having been a former covert official for the CIA and asking that this fact not be made public since "it might embarrass CIA," Bryan denied any association or communication with the CIA during the period he has served on the NICAP Board. How-

ever, when it was suggested to Bryan that two CIA covert agents had penetrated NICAP in the very beginning, he remarked: "Penetrated! Good God! What do you want to penetrate NICAP for? There's nothing to penetrate about—it was all overt, the whole thing."

Bryan may well be right. Former CIA briefing officer Karl Pflock was chairman of NICAP's Washington, D.C. subcommittee during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Pflock denies the Agency ever asked him for information on UFOs or NICAP, although he kept his CIA affiliation secret from most NICAP officials. But someone close to NICAP gave the CIA information on the group, as a 1973 document recently released to GSW reveals.

The undated CIA document, written by an unnamed person from an unnamed component of the Agency, indicates some familiarity with G. Stuart Nixon, at the time a top assistant to NICAP President John L. (Jack) Acuff. Interestingly, the NICAP daily activity logs from the late 1960s and early 1970s reflect that Nixon met with several past and present (then) CIA employees on a frequent basis. The CIA officials include Art Lundahl, then the Director of the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center, Fred Durant, author of the Robertson Panel Report and a former CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence missile expert, and Dr. Charles Sheldon, a consultant to the Agency now with the Library of Congress.

Another former CIA employee Nixon says he's had "dozens" of conversations with Col. Joseph Bryan. Curiously, however, none of the NICAP logs reflect any conversations between Nixon or Bryan, either by phone or in person, although almost every other daily occurrence is denoted in the logs. Questioned recently about this discrepancy, Nixon refused to comment.

Even more curious is the fact Nixon refuses to discuss his involvement in the ouster of Keyhoe from his position of NICAP President on Dec. 3, 1969. However, it should be noted Nixon's "no comment" stance serves him better than

Col. Bryan's statements on the same matter. Bryan flatly denied during a 1977 interview that he had anything to do with Keyhoe's abrupt removal from his President's position. In fact, Bryan asked the interviewer, Todd Zechel, to communicate a message to Keyhoe. "Please tell him that I had nothing whatsoever to do with it," pleaded Bryan.

Yet, NICAP files on the Dec. 3, 1969, executive committee meeting in which Keyhoe was voted out clearly establish that Bryan not only was Chairman of the Board of Governors at the time, but that he wrote and distributed a memo in which he called Keyhoe "inept." Evidently, this memo, coming from the Chairman of the Board, helped convince an otherwise loyal-to-Keyhoe panel to approve his firing.

Most interesting of all is a handwritten note in the same file in which Stuart Nixon questions the propriety of Bryan's remark in light of the plan to placate Keyhoe with some sort of Research Director's appointment. Seemingly, Nixon is only critical of Bryan's action because the subcommittees will find it incongruous Keyhoe is being put in charge of their activities after the Chairman of the Board has labeled him more-or-less a bumbling fool. Nixon doesn't seem to quarrel with the fact Keyhoe was being treated like yesterday's dung. But not many people at NICAP did.

Keyhoe's abrupt dismissal paved the way for Jack Acuff to be appointed the new President of NICAP. Acuff had been meeting with Stuart Nixon since mid-1968, seemingly waiting in the wings. Prior to his NICAP appointment, Acuff had been the head of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers (SPSE), a Washington-based group that had been the target of frequent KGB spying attempts. Apparently, the Soviets were interested in the Society because a large number of its members were photo-analysts with Department of Defense intelligence components and with the CIA. Acuff, because of his role as the head of SPSE, was approached by Soviet agents on several occasions. He reported these approaches to the FBI and subsequently began to

meet with the KGB agents in behalf of Washington FBI office, acting, in effect, as a covert agent.

In May 1977, Acuff was once again approached by Soviet agents, but this time they expressed an interest in UFOs. Acuff contacted the FBI and the Bureau gave him the go-ahead to play along with the KGB officials. However, other than making a few ambiguous comments about offering Acuff money, the Soviets never did make clear what their intentions were. Recently, however, Acuff disclosed he stands ready to continue co-operating with the FBI and would meet with the Soviet agents if they contacted him.

Since taking over NICAP, Acuff has converted the organization from being a vocal and persistent critic of the government's UFO policies to being a rather "passive recipient" of civilian UFO reports. The group's investigating network, the subcommittees, was disbanded shortly after Acuff took the job. But even though NICAP offered the public very little in the way of original investigations or research, and its newsletter, "UFO Investigator," became mostly a collection of unspectacular sighting reports mailed in by loyal members, NICAP managed to maintain a subscribing membership in excess of 3,000.

Since Keyhoe had been accused of mismanagement or non-management, and NICAP under his leadership had constantly teetered on the brink of bankruptcy, the hiring of a professional manager in the person of Acuff was evidently a decision by the Board to put the group on solid financial footing.

Acuff achieved fiscal soundness in a hurry by firing all full-time NICAP employees— including, eventually, Nixon— (Nixon actually resigned under pressure) except for a secretary whose salary was spread between NICAP and several other nonprofit groups Acuff managed under one roof.

After a slow start, NICAP was soon bringing in around \$50,000 a year under Acuff. However, usually around \$35,000 of the NICAP income went to Acuff Associates for "contracting services," which included part of the secretary's salary,

Acuff's salary, and a few office expenses that were also split with the other groups being managed out of the same office.

For example: In 1975, NICAP's total receipts came to \$50,333.59. Of that income, Acuff received a flat \$35,000 for his management fee or "contracting services." (The contracting services fee does not include the newsletter expenses except for whatever portion of the secretary's time was involved in typing it; all other newsletter expenses were listed separately in disbursements.) During 1975, \$76 of the \$50,000 income was spent on "general research."

In 1976, NICAP began its downward financial slide. It received \$41,690.05, nearly \$10,000 less than the previous year. Acuff, however, took a cut of only \$1,000, claiming \$34,000 for contracting services. That year, \$20 went for general research. (The ridiculously low research figures may account for at least part of the decline in income.)

By 1977, Acuff was claiming NICAP owed him money; telling Todd Zechel in May 1977 that "NICAP isn't pulling its own weight." In 1978, things took an even greater turn for the worse. In order to raise money, Acuff took to selling some of NICAP's supposedly outdated mailing lists. Unfortunately for Acuff, one his customers turned out to be a neo-Nazi group headquartered in Canada, Samisdat.

By August 1978, a new and controversial character emerged from out of NICAP's past: "Dr." Williard (a.k.a. "Willard") F. McIntyre, a former photographic consultant to the group and friend of Stuart Nixon. McIntyre began accusing Acuff of knowingly selling the mailing lists to the Nazis and told various UFOlogists around the country that Acuff intended to merge with Samisdat, or sell NICAP to them. In the meantime, Acuff had been approached by Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, a pro-contactee group based in Tucson, Arizona. Jim Lorenzen, APRO's International Director, asked Acuff if he was interested in selling NICAP. Acuff evidently replied affirmatively, and a price in the \$40,000 range was discussed.

In actual fact, Acuff had been tricked into selling NICAP's mailing lists to the Nazis by the Nazis' use of a front-

group called "The Idea Center," which they employed whenever they wished to mask the Nazi affiliation. But McIntyre continued with his vociferous accusations, inciting many former NICAP members and employees to start an ad-hoc group called "The Ad-Hoc Committee To Preserve NICAP." The ad-hoc members, which included John Carlson, Dick Hall and Larry Bryant, worked behind the scenes to block any attempts by Acuff to sell NICAP's potentially valuable files to someone who might misuse and abuse them, or keep them hidden away for selfish reasons.

While McIntyre worked frantically to thwart what he thought was a sell-out to the Nazis, he began to assert privately that he was a former covert agent of the CIA and said he knew Acuff had worked for the CIA too. Interviewed by CAUS Director Todd Zechel in August 1978, McIntyre said he had utilized the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers (SPSE) as a cover for his CIA employment. Jack Acuff, then the head of SPSE, had known about this covert CIA activity and willingly cooperated with it, McIntyre alleged.

McIntyre also claimed that he first joined NICAP around 1967, while working at the CIA's National Photo Interpretation Center (NPIC). Contrary to Agency policy, McIntyre said he did not clear his NICAP membership with his employers, and was subsequently called on the carpet for not reporting it. According to McIntyre, while he was being verbally reprimanded for his failure to notify his superiors, Col. Joseph Bryan's name was mentioned as the source of the information that a covert CIA agent (McIntyre) had infiltrated NICAP.

McIntyre named his CIA superiors as Jim Atherton and William Leftwich. He also identified a building at 1000 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Va., as a secret CIA center. However, under subsequent questioning, McIntyre failed to recognize the building's commonly-known (within CIA circles) nickname, "Blue U." (so-named for the blue panels that are an eye-catching part of its appearance). A CAUS investigation determined Jim Atherton and William Leftwich both worked in the photographic

field, which McIntyre had been associated with for a number of years, but neither had ever worked for the CIA.

Because McIntyre failed to recognize "Blue U." and didn't seem to know it was a CIA training center, and had incorrectly referred to CIA's clandestine component as "DDT" (rather than DDP--Deputy Director for Plans), and had given erroneous information about two persons in the photographic field, CAUS officials decided to disregard his allegations about both Acuff and Col. Joseph Bryan.

In the meantime, however, McIntyre's accusations that Acuff was about to "merge with the Nazis" stirred up interest on Capital Hill. Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona), a NICAP Board member since 1974, was alerted of Acuff's alleged Nazi deal through his aid, Charles Lombard, with whom McIntyre had apparently spoken.

By mid-September 1978, it was clear Acuff wanted out of the NICAP job, claiming the organization owed him a rather large sum of money. Key ad-hoc committee members began contacting the NICAP Board to offer taking possession of the files should the group fold. Dick Hall of MUFON and John Carlson of INFO proposed a coalition between NICAP, MUFON, CUFOS (Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center For UFO Studies) and INFO.

In general, the reaction to Acuff's handling of NICAP was one of outraged disgust by former NICAP officials and employees, many of whom had lost interest in the group's activities over the past several years. The basis of the former NICAPers' anger was the feeling they had all worked and sacrificed to make NICAP a potent influence during the mid-1960s; they had assembled an investigating network that the Air Force could never hope to match. Now, they felt, Acuff had lived off the reputation they had established, had sucked it dry and then wanted to dump it. Or, as one former NICAP employee put it, "Acuff got on a damn good horse and rode it until it dropped. He never took care of it or fed it, and now he's trying to sell the bones."

The NICAP Board, meantime, hadn't seemed to have been bothered by the fact Acuff took in over \$50,000 in 1974 and spent only a paltry \$67 on research (investigations), or that in 1973 he took in over \$48,000, and in 1975 over \$50,000 again, with similar miniscule amounts expended for "general research." Neither did they seem to be bothered by NICAP's dwindling membership and an almost total lack of respect for the group throughout the world.

What did bother the Board, evidently, was Acuff's faux pas in selling the group's mailing lists to Samisdat, and the fact past and present NICAP subscribers were suddenly being deluged with Nazi brochures. Charles Lombard, Sen. Goldwater's aid, was incensed and worried about the possible effect Acuff's boner would have on his boss. (Goldwater's opponents could have a field-day with a Nazi tie-in to the conservative Senator.)

Thus, by the October 17, 1978, Acuff's fate was sealed—he was through as NICAP's President. Following the meeting, Board members reported Acuff had "resigned." But Acuff was allowed to remain on the Board, apparently in an effort to stave off his demand to be paid in excess of \$20,000 he claimed NICAP owed him for "contracting services." The files would also remain in Acuff's custody. (One former NICAPer said, "He's holding the files as ransom.")

While the Board more or less rejected the ad-hoc committee's idea for a coalition at the Oct. 17th meeting, it did decide to work out some sort of merger with Dr. Hynek and CUFOS. At the same meeting, two new board members were voted in: Charles Lombard, Sen. Goldwater's aid, and John Fisher, head of the American Security Council, an ultra-conservative political lobbying group.

Toward the end of October, former NICAP Director under Major Keyhoe, Richard H. (Dick) Hall, began making proposals to the Board and offering to serve as Acuff's replacement. Hall's overtures were met with mixed response by key board members: Gen. (USAF-Ret.) Robert Richardson and Joseph Hartranft reacted favorably, telling Hall he was

their most likely candidate. Charles Lombard, on the other hand, seemed to feel Hall wasn't qualified for the position as he defined it. Lombard indicated in an October 30th meeting with Hall and Dr. Hynek, wherein Hynek had flown into Washington at his own expense since NICAP claimed its treasury was totally empty, that he was searching for a "White Knight" to rescue NICAP—a retired government official with management experience who could tap corporations and foundations for donations.

Yet, even though Lombard seemed to be set on appointing an ex-intelligence official of some sort, Richardson kept telling Hall he was their most promising prospect and would probably be appointed at the November 29th board meeting. However, not only was Hall not appointed in the November meeting, he was dropped from consideration. Also suffering at the meeting was the proposal to merge with CUFOS and have NICAP newsletter subscribers receive the International UFO Reporter magazine as a substitute for the nearly-defunct UFO Investigator.

Acuff, the resigned President, seemed to be at least partially responsible for blocking the CUFOS merger, apparently because he had discovered the Center was nearly as moneyless as NICAP. Acuff seemed to be in favor of a merger with APRO, which indicted it had substantial funds or access to them. (Most observers feel Acuff wants to be paid off and doesn't feel the CUFOS deal would achieve a quick payment of his "contracting services".)

Thus, by January 1979, NICAP was still wallowing in confusion. The Board had talked in glowing terms about raising funds for UFO research by utilizing John Fisher's Communication Corporation of America, a conservative fund-raising mechanism, but details of the campaign to raise money were slow in being worked out. Apparently, up-front money was needed to get the effort started, but neither NICAP or CUFOS had operating funds enough to swing it.

In the meantime, Lombard's search for a "White Knight" took a humorous turn. Art Lundahl, a retired CIA official liv-

ing in Bethesda, MD, was offered the NICAP Presidency by an unnamed board member in early January. Lundahl quickly pointed out the storm of protest such an appointment would arouse and declined the offer. Subsequently, several other retired CIA officials were offered the job. Finally, one accepted.

The new "White Knight" is Alan N. Hall, about 60, a retired CIA employee living in Bethesda. Reportedly, Hall has agreed to fill Acuff's shoes for a 6-month trial period on a volunteer basis, without pay. Not much is known about Hall's background at the moment, except that he evidently worked in some technical capacity—perhaps with the Office of Scientific Intelligence, or in the DDS&T directorate.

Obviously, the appointment of a retired CIA employee raises some serious questions of propriety. During the late 1950s and early-mid-1960s, NICAP, under Keyhoe, received a great deal of confidential information on UFO cases that were being kept secret; military and intelligence sources repeatedly leaked inside UFO info to Keyhoe. Apparently because of its past reputation, NICAP continued to have confidential UFO data leaked to it during Acuff's tenure. In late 1976, for example, an officer in the Pentagon provided Acuff with copies of a number of classified documents, including the now-famous Iranian report and several other "hot" reports. In 1978, an NSA employee supplied Acuff with information about domestic UFO reports that were coming in through NSA's communications system.

The fact Acuff was working as a covert agent in behalf of the FBI raises some obvious questions about how these confidential sources were handled. And now that a retired CIA employee is taking Acuff's place, even more serious questions are raised. Like: What happens to someone who walks in and hands Alan Hall a classified UFO report, not knowing the strong government ties? Does the document ever see the light of day? Does the source ever again see the light of day?

Who knows, maybe this is all a set-up. One would naturally have to be suspicious of any board of governors that was comprised of two former CIA covert employees (Bryan and Lombard), a retired Air Force General once associated with the Foreign Technology Division (FTD), the component that took over UFO analysis, and an ultra-conservative political activist who once compiled files on millions of Americans he considered "potentially subversive" (Fisher).

But maybe it isn't a set-up. Maybe they just accidentally destroyed NICAP by hiring a businessman who couldn't care less about UFOs and letting him stay on the job until the reputation Keyhoe had established had been milked for all it was worth.

Maybe it's just a coincidence that the founder of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff has been on the board for nearly twenty years. Maybe it's another coincidence that Charles Lombard, a former CIA covert employee (according to himself) would seek out a retired CIA executive to run the organization after a covert agent for the FBI had decided to resign when the money ran out.

Or maybe we're all paranoid. Maybe we shouldn't even blink our eyes when these hocus-pocus acts occur. Perhaps Keyhoe deserved to be fired from the organization he built with his own sweat, blood and sacrifice. The timing couldn't have been better, in any case. Keyhoe, after all, was beginning to focus on the CIA in 1969, instead of his tunnel-visioned attacks on the Air Force. Then there was the matter of the Condon Report, issued in 1969. With Keyhoe out of the way, the laughable conclusions of Condon and his gang of merry UFO debunkers allowed the Air Force to get off the hook for good.

To come right out and say it was all a conspiracy would either be leaping at conclusions or stating the obvious—take your pick. But in the final analysis, the results speak for themselves. And the results are that if they wanted to destroy the leading anti-secrecy organization of the 1960s, they couldn't have done a better job if they'd tried.

Editor's Note: It's possible the gentlemen associated with the NICAP Board of Governors are guilty of nothing more than poor judgement. Most Board members who took part in the hiring of Jack Acuff have expressed regrets. They say the hiring was a mistake and that a management-type with no interest in UFOs wouldn't and couldn't work out. Yet, knowing that hasn't prevented them from appointing an ex-CIA employee to replace Acuff. By this and other actions, they have created the appearance of impropriety.

CAUS worked diligently behind the scenes attempting to convey the idea to the Board that another unpopular and secretive hiring such as the one which occurred in 1970 would doom NICAP and place the Board in total suspicion. Our warnings went unheeded. If the Board thinks NICAP can exist on an island by itself, cut off from mainstream UFOlogy, and with a total lack of trust and cooperation, we think they will discover they've made a tremendous and tragic mistake.

CAUS NOTES

*Since mid-December, CAUS and GSW have been overwhelmed with media interest in our activities. CAUS Director Todd Zechel has been interviewed by over 40 radio stations, several newspapers, television stations, and a number of magazines, including Newsweek and several foreign publications.

*The Washington Post, one of the nation's most influential papers, carried a front-page story entitled "What Were Those Mysterious Craft" on January 19, 1979. The story was based on documents obtained by Todd Zechel under the FOIA related to the Oct./Nov. 1975 flap of hoverings by low-altitude UFOs over SAC B-52 bases and missile sites. The story was picked up by the wire services and many papers throughout the country carried it front-page, including the Atlanta Constitution, which ran it as a banner headline.

*CAUS Director Todd Zechel and GSW Director William Spaulding appeared together on NBC-TV's "Today Show" on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Interviewed by co-host Jane Pauley about the 1975 flap (which Pauley was under the mistaken impression had been released as part of the CIA suit; in fact, the '75 flap material had been released mostly in 1977), Zechel said the reports indicated the Air Force had a major security problem on its hands.

*On Thursday, Jan. 25, CAUS Director Todd Zechel testified before the House Rules Committee of the House of Representatives, State of Mississippi. Rep. Horace Buckley, a black legislator from Jackson, Miss., introduced a resolution in the House asking the Mississippi government to petition the U.S. Senate to conduct an investigation into UFOs. The resolution also called for President Carter to live up to his reported campaign promise and disclose what the government knows about the subject.

Zechel and Al Hendry, Chief Investigator for the Center For UFO Studies, were invited by Rep. Buckley to appear as expert witnesses on the problems of getting UFO information from the gov't. and the need for scientific research.

Interestingly, the members of the committee didn't deny the reality of UFOs; on the contrary, at least two members of the subcommittee argued that the government considered UFOs a threat to national security and had a perfect right to withhold information.

*CAUS is presently swamped with documents and is working intensely to sort out the ones which would be of interest to its members. A new list of documents for sale will be circulated to all members who have requested it. CAUS Document Manager & Public Relations Coordinator Don Berliner will be handling the sales.

*CAUS is syndicating a radio series entitled CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT KIND. Highlight of the series is the crashed saucer case. Four separate witnesses will be heard, as well as a document that seems to support the case. Contact your favorite radio station and ask them if they've heard from us.

UFO WHISTLEBLOWERS

Whistleblowing -- that fine art of a government employee's ratting on his/her employer for alleged illegal/improper conduct -- became a mini-growth industry in the Watergate era and now is inviting the attention of researchers specializing in "investigative reporting" of UFO information policies/practices. To the whistleblower's craft we owe the revelations of the famous Iranian and Cuban air-intercept UFO cases.

Though there are too few incidences of UFO whistleblowing to draw a firm personality profile, here's what we can surmise about the typical practitioner:

- (S)he is an intelligence employee (either military or civilian) privy to raw UFO data being processed through the nation's intelligence channels.

- (S)he is familiar enough with the popular UFO literature to be able to discern politics from legitimate concern for "national security" -- and in so doing is motivated more by a sense of duty to the ultimate national interest vis-a-vis the UFO controversy than by any sense of loyalty to his/her employing agency.

- (S)he is willing to go only so far in subjecting career security to the almost thankless prospect of honesty and candor in public affairs.

- (S)he can be influenced to blow the whistle louder and more frequently if s(he) perceives support from fellow workers and from the recipients of his/her "leaks" of heretofore suppressed UFO data.

The above was submitted by a member of the CAUS staff. He suggested we create a special fund to offer a monetary reward to persons who provide leads to suppressed UFO data. We feel the idea has merit, but we would not want the offer to be construed as an inducement to violate legitimate laws, vows or oaths of secrecy. After all, we operate under the assumption UFO-related documents cannot be lawfully withheld under national security grounds according to the countless statements and findings made by various government agencies which proclaim exactly the opposite. We would like some reader feedback on this matter, with letters addressed to CAUS Administrator Larry W. Bryant.

JUST CAUSE
P.O. Box 4743
Arlington, VA 22204

Send FIRST CLASS To:

