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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,800

It's Jay Allen, high-necked HYPNET.

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00:00:07,800 --> 00:00:13,240

I'm chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University and director of

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00:00:13,240 --> 00:00:15,600

the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center.

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00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:21,360

When and how did you first get involved with UFOs?

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00:00:21,360 --> 00:00:24,480

Quite by accident and by a propensity, really.

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00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:29,880

I happened to be teaching astronomy at Ohio State University, which is just a few miles

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00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:31,680

from Dayton.

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00:00:31,680 --> 00:00:42,760

And when the flying saucer era really began in 47 and 48, the responsibility for checking

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00:00:42,760 --> 00:00:48,600

it out and then monitoring it was given to the Air Force in the head right field.

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00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:55,400

And they needed an astronomer to help pass a judgment as to how many of the reports could

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00:00:55,400 --> 00:01:00,960

be attributed to meteors, stars, planets, so forth.

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00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:04,080

And I just happened to be a handy astronomer.

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00:01:04,080 --> 00:01:09,480

And I, well, you might say that one thing led to another, I became interested in some

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00:01:09,480 --> 00:01:15,200

of the really oddball cases that clearly didn't have an astronomical explanation and my curiosity

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00:01:15,200 --> 00:01:21,120

was to always just do what to, so how those might be explained.

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00:01:21,120 --> 00:01:24,920

Well, we're twenty years of experience.

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00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:29,200

What you feel is the explanation of the UFOs?

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00:01:29,200 --> 00:01:31,200

I just don't know.

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00:01:31,200 --> 00:01:38,520

In science, if you know the answer in advance, a priori, it's not research.

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00:01:38,520 --> 00:01:44,280

I'm still in the data gathering phase.

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00:01:44,280 --> 00:01:48,160

And you see, very little effort really has been spent over the past many years.

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00:01:48,160 --> 00:01:53,640

Very little, very few funds have been spent on really looking into the matter.

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00:01:53,880 --> 00:02:01,680

It has been treated with such ridicule and so lightly, it's always been such a power

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00:02:01,680 --> 00:02:06,800

room topic for banter and ridicule and giggling.

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00:02:08,920 --> 00:02:15,320

And aided in the best by the, well, I just go on and call them the limited fringe, the

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00:02:15,400 --> 00:02:25,400

group that see in the UFO phenomenon a mechanism for themselves to further their own ideas.

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00:02:25,400 --> 00:02:30,880

That's, for instance, I've been told that the second coming will be in a flying saucer.

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00:02:30,880 --> 00:02:34,920

I think this is a part, there's this tremendous desire on the part of many people to believe

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00:02:34,920 --> 00:02:39,720

in something they desperately want to, well, I guess you might say they want to find a

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00:02:39,720 --> 00:02:42,640

more scientific father image in the sky.

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00:02:42,640 --> 00:02:47,720

They would be delighted to have something from the outside come here and help us out.

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00:02:47,720 --> 00:02:54,960

And so quite uncritically, not asking at all whether they're, what the evidence is, they

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00:02:54,960 --> 00:03:01,960

will believe the most rabid cop and bull story if it further their preconceived notions.

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00:03:01,960 --> 00:03:09,440

Well, some of this has reached such a tremendous and preposterous level in the formation of

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00:03:10,040 --> 00:03:17,040

UFO cult pseudo religion that, well, you can easily see why no serious scientist would

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00:03:20,920 --> 00:03:22,240

have paid any real attention.

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00:03:22,240 --> 00:03:23,880

Most, most scientists are busy.

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00:03:23,880 --> 00:03:28,600

They have their own projects, their own work, which is yielding results and making published

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00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:35,600

papers and advanced in status and in scientific dignity, you might say.

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00:03:35,680 --> 00:03:39,400

Why should they take something that is the province, at least popularly?

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00:03:40,360 --> 00:03:44,560

Seemed to be the province of cooks and fuzzy thinkers.

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00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:51,560

Even I have felt a bash and rather shame-faced many times in the past 20 years for reading

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00:03:54,040 --> 00:03:59,920

reports and, for instance, I'll have a UFO report on my desk and a visiting astronomer

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00:03:59,920 --> 00:04:02,920

comes by up to now.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:10,000

I've been, well, always rather quick to hide the report or if somebody sends me a copy

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00:04:10,600 --> 00:04:15,560

of Flying Saucer Review or, it's a perfectly respectable magazine, even though the name

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00:04:15,560 --> 00:04:18,560

does seem a little odd.

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00:04:18,560 --> 00:04:25,560

It was shy or at least shame-faced in the sense about having any UFO literature or UFO

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00:04:25,600 --> 00:04:32,600

reports around because the casual visitor coming in and seeing a flying astronomer

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00:04:33,480 --> 00:04:37,360

report on my desk would just draw the wrong conclusions.

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00:04:37,360 --> 00:04:41,040

So for quite a while I just took it very lightly and whenever I would generally refuse to

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00:04:41,040 --> 00:04:45,240

let myself get into a conversation about it, just toss it off lightly like, well, I'm

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00:04:45,240 --> 00:04:52,240

just monitoring the noise level, in which in the sense is what I was doing because it

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00:04:53,480 --> 00:04:55,480

is the whole problem.

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00:04:55,840 --> 00:05:02,840

As a matter of fact, the question of signal to noise or static to real program, there

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00:05:03,840 --> 00:05:10,840

is so much noise, in fact, that so much static, so much crud that one wonders whether there

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00:05:12,120 --> 00:05:15,320

really is anything of scientific value in it.

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00:05:15,320 --> 00:05:21,320

But over the course of the years, these reports have continued to come in from many countries

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00:05:21,400 --> 00:05:27,240

and have a great similarity in the reports regardless of the country and they have come

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00:05:27,240 --> 00:05:33,360

in from people of many, people of high repute.

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00:05:33,360 --> 00:05:39,360

I used to think and most scientists who have not looked at the subject at all have the

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00:05:39,360 --> 00:05:46,360

mistaken impression that UFO reports come only from the mentally unbalanced or the weak

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00:05:47,080 --> 00:05:48,080

thinkers.

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00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:49,400

But actually this isn't so.

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00:05:49,400 --> 00:05:52,560

Of course quite a few reports do come from people like that.

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00:05:52,560 --> 00:05:58,560

But most of those reports hardly enough turn out to be very easily explained.

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00:05:58,560 --> 00:06:04,560

The untutored, unsophisticated person will very understandably mistake a satellite and

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00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:07,560

mistake a meteor for a flying saucer.

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00:06:07,560 --> 00:06:10,480

But it's rather easy to read those out.

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00:06:10,480 --> 00:06:15,840

I think I would say that the Beher reports, those that sort of stumped me and I can find

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00:06:15,880 --> 00:06:22,880

no logical explanation for, there is a high chance that they come, a report like that

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00:06:25,120 --> 00:06:32,120

comes from a person of considerable standing in their community of moderate technical training

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00:06:33,720 --> 00:06:37,160

and certainly we might say with his head screwed on right.

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00:06:37,160 --> 00:06:44,160

And in fact it's characteristic of these reports or rather of these people to write to me and

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00:06:45,160 --> 00:06:52,160

say that when the letters almost start there was almost a certain sameness.

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00:06:53,560 --> 00:06:58,560

They were right that they weren't going to say anything to anybody about this but they

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00:06:58,560 --> 00:07:04,720

felt it was their duty as a citizen to do it and also they recognized that as a university

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00:07:04,720 --> 00:07:11,720

professor I probably am harmless and I'm not going to give them undue publicity and they

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00:07:11,720 --> 00:07:16,720

will say that if this will help me and my work they are happy to be any citizen as they

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00:07:16,720 --> 00:07:23,720

can but please don't use my name and there is another reason why people will write about

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00:07:25,320 --> 00:07:30,640

an unusual sighting and that is because they themselves are tremendously curious and perhaps

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00:07:30,640 --> 00:07:32,760

somewhat frightened.

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00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:39,760

They, the letters sometimes end on a rather plain to note.

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00:07:40,440 --> 00:07:43,960

Can you tell me what it was that we saw?

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00:07:43,960 --> 00:07:49,360

It's something we can't explain and another thing that's characteristic of the letters

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00:07:49,360 --> 00:07:56,360

and the reports that I get generally personally and I'm getting quite a few of that sort where

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00:07:58,480 --> 00:08:05,480

people do not want it reported to any other group who do not want it reported even to

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00:08:05,480 --> 00:08:10,280

the report at times.

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00:08:10,280 --> 00:08:17,280

They try to explain it themselves at first and it's sort of what I've called escalation

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00:08:18,240 --> 00:08:20,640

of hypothesis.

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00:08:20,640 --> 00:08:27,640

Take a typical case, one that occurred in Monticello, Wisconsin some years ago.

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00:08:27,760 --> 00:08:34,760

Group of four people ranging in ages from 60 to a young girl of 12 and they were very

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00:08:35,480 --> 00:08:37,280

young.

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00:08:37,280 --> 00:08:44,280

The main protagonist was a graduate student of anthropology at a Midwestern University

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00:08:44,280 --> 00:08:51,280

said to me and I talked with them for hours and they were just truly puzzled but completely

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00:08:53,360 --> 00:08:54,360

sensible people.

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00:08:54,360 --> 00:09:00,200

They said at first we thought it was an accident up on the road ahead of us because we thought

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00:09:00,200 --> 00:09:07,200

we're flashing beacon lights and then we realized it couldn't be that because it was too high

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00:09:07,520 --> 00:09:14,520

and then we thought it was an airplane about to crash and as it came closer we saw that

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00:09:16,160 --> 00:09:20,560

it wasn't that and then we saw it was something that we'd never seen before in our lives and

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00:09:20,560 --> 00:09:27,560

then this little girl who was in the back seat threw herself on the floor at the back

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00:09:27,560 --> 00:09:33,720

of the car and just hit her head in terror and I was told later by her mother that she'd

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00:09:33,720 --> 00:09:40,080

a week later had nightmares and was a thoroughly frightened girl.

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00:09:40,080 --> 00:09:47,080

All the people saw were a geometrical arrangement of light, white and red that looked as they

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00:09:48,200 --> 00:09:55,200

explained it, something like a traveling clothes tree or you hang your hat on and it was a

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00:09:57,840 --> 00:10:03,840

suspended quite an angle because as they were alongside of the road there were telephone

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00:10:03,840 --> 00:10:08,840

wires and they could see part of this object, I don't know if there's an object but I'll

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00:10:08,840 --> 00:10:11,320

say object, this apparition.

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00:10:11,320 --> 00:10:15,880

Part of this apparition was well above the wires and a part below so it's subtended

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00:10:15,880 --> 00:10:21,400

we computed about 25 or 30 degrees and they estimated although they were smart enough

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00:10:21,400 --> 00:10:27,040

to realize they didn't know really how far away it was they estimated it to be, they

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00:10:27,040 --> 00:10:30,480

felt it was close, they felt it was just a matter of 100 yards away.

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00:10:30,480 --> 00:10:37,480

That's one case, now we had many many many cases of people who said that their cars had

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00:10:37,480 --> 00:10:41,040

been buzzed by very bright lights, the lights being so bright that they couldn't see the

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00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:44,080

object behind them.

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00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:51,080

People have reported that animals have become frightened and in some reports the first warning

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00:10:51,200 --> 00:10:56,280

that something was strange came from animals in the barn raising a fuss.

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00:10:56,400 --> 00:11:02,120

That only hallucinates so I'm always rather likely to get a case of that sort because

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00:11:02,120 --> 00:11:08,620

it brings in another sort of witness at any rate and they report that ignition systems

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00:11:08,620 --> 00:11:09,620

and cars fail.

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00:11:09,620 --> 00:11:14,760

Now this seems on the face of the preposterous, how can the ignition system of a car fail?

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00:11:14,760 --> 00:11:18,000

How can the lights go out by themselves and the radio stop?

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00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:23,800

I can certainly see that a man may get excited, jam the brakes on and kill the engine but

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00:11:23,840 --> 00:11:28,680

that doesn't put the lights out and it doesn't stop the radio.

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00:11:28,680 --> 00:11:35,680

And if a report like that came from baddie people, well I would disregard it but can't

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00:11:38,760 --> 00:11:39,760

found that they don't.

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00:11:39,760 --> 00:11:45,280

You see they come from people who have held responsible positions in their communities

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00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:52,120

for a number of years, they come from pilots, they come from policemen, the same policeman

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00:11:52,160 --> 00:11:57,560

whose testimony could send you to the chair under certain circumstances, will testify

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00:11:57,560 --> 00:12:00,040

that these things and will not be believed.

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00:12:00,040 --> 00:12:05,040

So you see what the problem is, it's a strange phenomenon.

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00:12:05,040 --> 00:12:12,040

Do the cases that you feel are impressive, do they include any occupant cases at all?

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00:12:15,200 --> 00:12:16,200

A very few.

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00:12:16,200 --> 00:12:19,200

Now you said impressive.

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00:12:19,280 --> 00:12:26,280

Yes, impressive ones, some impressive ones do but it is so far as far as the correlation

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00:12:26,440 --> 00:12:33,440

runs, the ones that are the most impressive from occupant state or especially from communication

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00:12:33,600 --> 00:12:39,600

standpoint, to those so-called contact T-1s, whether in actual communication either by

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00:12:39,600 --> 00:12:46,600

word or by mental telepathy that's taking place, up to now, not far as I can see come

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00:12:47,320 --> 00:12:54,320

from people of as high credibility as those of lesser spectacularity.

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00:13:00,440 --> 00:13:07,440

But the reports of that sort do exist in many countries.

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00:13:08,400 --> 00:13:13,600

As a matter of fact some of the best reports from the standpoint of being spectacular have

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00:13:13,600 --> 00:13:15,600

come from the Latin American countries.

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00:13:15,600 --> 00:13:20,600

One that I frequently can say and my colleagues have told me, well you really can't believe

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00:13:20,600 --> 00:13:24,600

what those people say, they're fallible and excitable and all that.

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00:13:24,600 --> 00:13:28,600

On the other hand, what are the criteria for disbelief?

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00:13:28,600 --> 00:13:31,600

What does it take not to believe a report?

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00:13:31,600 --> 00:13:35,600

It's not only one, one must not only ask what does it take to believe a report, and must

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00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:38,600

also ask under what conditions will I not believe a report?

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00:13:38,600 --> 00:13:41,600

And this is the dilemma I find myself in.

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00:13:41,600 --> 00:13:48,600

And what we need is not to jump to conclusions and say that UFOs are or are not visitors

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00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:51,600

from space, that is not the issue.

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00:13:51,600 --> 00:13:54,600

The issue is what causes the reports.

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00:13:54,600 --> 00:13:57,600

The reports are the things that exist.

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00:13:57,600 --> 00:13:59,600

They are the UFOs.

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00:13:59,600 --> 00:14:05,600

We must find out what has caused the reports and then after we establish the validity of

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00:14:05,600 --> 00:14:08,600

the report, then and only then start to theorize.

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00:14:08,600 --> 00:14:15,600

Well obviously you think there are enough of these reports towards being taken seriously

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00:14:15,600 --> 00:14:16,600

scientifically.

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00:14:16,600 --> 00:14:17,600

Oh yes.

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00:14:17,600 --> 00:14:25,600

Do you have any guess about what the findings will be, will we find that these are extraterrestrials?

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00:14:25,600 --> 00:14:33,600

I just want to go on a limb and venture to say that because I recognize that because

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00:14:33,600 --> 00:14:38,600

of my peculiar position, having been the Air Force's consultant in this for so many years,

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00:14:38,600 --> 00:14:45,600

that I do bear a strange responsibility not because of my self, but because of the circumstances.

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00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:53,600

I recognize that I really sort of have it in my power to mobilize the mass credulity of

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00:14:53,600 --> 00:15:00,600

the world if I came out and held a press conference and maintained stoutly that we were being visited

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00:15:00,600 --> 00:15:01,600

by extraterrestrials.

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00:15:01,600 --> 00:15:06,600

And all I can say is that when I do say that, if I ever do come out and say that, I will

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00:15:06,600 --> 00:15:08,600

be pretty darn sure that I'm right.

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00:15:08,600 --> 00:15:13,600

It will not be a guess, but it will be based on definite evidence.

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00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:20,600

What would you like to see done to further this whole problem of finding answers to these

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00:15:20,600 --> 00:15:21,600

questions?

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00:15:21,600 --> 00:15:22,600

That's a very good question.

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00:15:22,600 --> 00:15:25,600

I'm very happy to answer that.

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00:15:26,600 --> 00:15:32,600

I first of all would like to see the problem attacked in two distinct ways.

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00:15:32,600 --> 00:15:36,600

I would say what you might call passive and active.

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00:15:36,600 --> 00:15:46,600

The two approaches, I think for want of a better word or it's descriptive, I say passive and active.

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00:15:46,600 --> 00:15:53,600

By passive, I mean the attacking, the wealth, the mountain of reports.

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00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:58,600

Not only in this but other countries and doing something about them.

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00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:01,600

Now, what do I mean by doing something about them?

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00:16:01,600 --> 00:16:07,600

First of all, I mean putting them into machine readable form so that they're put on magnetic

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00:16:07,600 --> 00:16:15,600

tape and the modern methods of data analysis and pattern recognition and numerical analysis

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00:16:15,600 --> 00:16:16,600

applied to them.

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00:16:16,600 --> 00:16:23,600

Reports today exist in the Air Force as well as other places as letters, as forms, as questionnaires,

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00:16:23,600 --> 00:16:28,600

as papers of different sizes, folders of different sizes.

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00:16:28,600 --> 00:16:32,600

This is hardly a systematic scientific way of handling data.

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00:16:32,600 --> 00:16:40,600

The first thing is to devise a good method of data processing.

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00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:48,600

And I feel it is just not any point to just handling United States cases alone,

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00:16:48,600 --> 00:16:55,600

but since reports have come in from more than 70 other countries, we should likewise analyze those.

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00:16:55,600 --> 00:17:01,600

There should be a central clearinghouse and I would like to see the United Nations act as that

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00:17:01,600 --> 00:17:07,600

clearinghouse, the UNESCO for instance, might very well, without committing itself,

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00:17:07,600 --> 00:17:12,600

without being a service, just like a World Health Organization, as a service for the distribution

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00:17:12,600 --> 00:17:14,600

of vaccines or the gathering of data.

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00:17:14,600 --> 00:17:20,600

It would be rather silly if we were in an unknown plague of disease if we concentrated only

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00:17:20,600 --> 00:17:22,600

on how that disease acted in one country.

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00:17:22,600 --> 00:17:26,600

We'd want to find out how it acted in all countries.

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00:17:26,600 --> 00:17:33,600

In other words, the analysis of the reports and concentrating on what I call the high

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00:17:33,600 --> 00:17:35,600

sigma, high C cases.

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00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:42,600

By that I mean cases that are the sigma, what I call the strangeness index, that is,

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00:17:42,600 --> 00:17:49,600

you can assign a number to any report from say one to five, depending on its strangeness.

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00:17:49,600 --> 00:17:54,600

One and two would be things that are easily explained, satellite, birds, that sort of thing,

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00:17:54,600 --> 00:17:59,600

which nonetheless, it puzzles some people, but there was no reason to puzzle them because it was,

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00:18:00,600 --> 00:18:03,600

they had had a perfectly natural explanation.

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00:18:03,600 --> 00:18:11,600

And the high sigma cases, the high strangeness cases that are simply those that are not

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00:18:11,600 --> 00:18:13,600

explainable in ordinary terms.

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00:18:13,600 --> 00:18:17,600

But still, we haven't said anything here about believing those reports.

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00:18:17,600 --> 00:18:19,600

You can have several strange cases.

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00:18:19,600 --> 00:18:21,600

The question now is, can they be believed?

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00:18:21,600 --> 00:18:27,600

Well, now one can also assign another number to a report, or rather to the people who made

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00:18:27,600 --> 00:18:28,600

the report.

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00:18:28,600 --> 00:18:31,600

I call this my credibility index.

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00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:35,600

The credibility index doesn't take into account the report.

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00:18:35,600 --> 00:18:38,600

It takes into account the people.

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00:18:38,600 --> 00:18:41,600

What is the general reputation of the people?

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00:18:41,600 --> 00:18:43,600

Have they taken a lie detector test?

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00:18:43,600 --> 00:18:47,600

Do they have a medical record?

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00:18:47,600 --> 00:18:51,600

Have they any sort of record of being pranksters, of being liars?

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00:18:51,600 --> 00:18:56,600

Are they the sort of people who you believe that they told you that they saw you go through a red light,

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00:18:56,600 --> 00:18:58,600

or saw someone go through a red light?

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00:18:58,600 --> 00:19:02,600

In other words, are they just ordinary, credible people?

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00:19:02,600 --> 00:19:10,600

Now when you combine the two, you can have a strange report told by someone or people of low credibility,

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00:19:10,600 --> 00:19:12,600

which you can disregard.

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00:19:12,600 --> 00:19:18,600

However, the kind of reports to concentrate on are clearly the high sigma, high c,

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00:19:18,600 --> 00:19:20,600

the strange reports of high credibility.

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00:19:20,600 --> 00:19:24,600

Now, those reports should be studied in great detail.

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00:19:24,600 --> 00:19:30,600

No effort is spared to squeeze any scientific information out of them possible.

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00:19:30,600 --> 00:19:35,600

These are the ones that should be studied by modern electronic methods,

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00:19:35,600 --> 00:19:41,600

and we should get the patterns of motion, patterns of geometry,

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00:19:41,600 --> 00:19:48,600

patterns of geographical distribution, of temporal distribution, all that sort of thing.

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00:19:48,600 --> 00:19:55,600

It is rather interesting and rather sad in a way that the phenomenon of UFOs has existed now so long,

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00:19:55,600 --> 00:20:08,600

and never has there been what I would call a real, thorough investigation of any good case.

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00:20:08,600 --> 00:20:15,600

I mean by good investigation, I mean in the same sense that the FDI would investigate a kidnapping, for instance,

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00:20:16,600 --> 00:20:27,600

sparing no expense or time to catch the bottom of things, or the bank robbery, or a counterfeiting rate.

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00:20:27,600 --> 00:20:34,600

But UFOs have been regarded as so much the province of the Cooks and the Lunatic fringe,

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00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:41,600

that serious scientists have simply not taken the time or trouble to look at them, to look at the data.

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00:20:41,600 --> 00:20:47,600

Well, that's the passage. I think we'd get someplace that way. At least we'd get much farther than we are.

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00:20:47,600 --> 00:20:52,600

It is unlikely, however, that no matter how many reports you analyze, you're going to get any different answers.

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00:20:52,600 --> 00:20:59,600

You're simply going to get a greater degree of probability that something really strange is going on.

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00:20:59,600 --> 00:21:05,600

The active phase is, well, going on and getting on.

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00:21:05,600 --> 00:21:13,600

Actually, if after all, if UFOs exist, I mean if there is something tangible, if there is something, some substance behind the report,

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00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:22,600

then we should be able to go out and get at that substance by photograph, or, well, let's photograph perhaps the best.

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00:21:22,600 --> 00:21:27,600

Now there are areas in the country which seem sometimes to be what you might call UFO hot,

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00:21:28,600 --> 00:21:41,600

and there have been many cases in which a witness of a strange sighting, you might say a UFO happening or who has had a UFO experience,

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00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:50,600

has had time to call the local police and they have come out, that's happened in Ravenna and in Exeter and other places.

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00:21:50,600 --> 00:21:57,600

The police have actually come out and seen the same thing, but unfortunately in none of those cases did the policeman have a camera.

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00:21:57,600 --> 00:22:09,600

So one of the things I would like to strongly recommend is that every squad car in the country have a loaded camera in that glove compartment.

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00:22:10,600 --> 00:22:18,600

These cameras, a camera, that's ought to be cheaper than a gun, and it seems to me that if the local Kiwanis,

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00:22:18,600 --> 00:22:28,600

group groups of Rotarians or some of the city's minor groups took it upon themselves to equip their own immediate community with squad cars that have cameras,

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00:22:28,600 --> 00:22:35,600

or cameras for squad cars rather, we might today or might soon have some real pictures.

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00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:44,600

But I'm also suggesting a central bureau, a central switchboard.

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00:22:44,600 --> 00:22:50,600

Let us take this case that I described in a popular magazine recently,

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00:22:52,600 --> 00:23:03,600

a case in which a man and his family were driving along and were frightened out of their wits by the approach of an extremely bright light that buzzed their cars.

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00:23:03,600 --> 00:23:10,600

They said caused the engine, the radio and the lights to go out and very soon thereafter departed and everything returned to normal.

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00:23:10,600 --> 00:23:24,600

If they had been able to hurry to a roadside telephone, call a central number that might be called UF4-1000 that could be used,

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00:23:25,600 --> 00:23:38,600

that would be connected to some central switchboard, which was manned 24 hours a day by a group of experienced interrogators who could tell in two or three questions

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00:23:38,600 --> 00:23:46,600

whether there was any substance to the report or whether it was just nonsensical or common object.

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00:23:47,600 --> 00:23:58,600

Now then, if the interrogator at the opposite end of that line became convinced after a few questions that this was something worth investigating,

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00:23:58,600 --> 00:24:10,600

is it the investigator could call the local police chief in that area and by this time the police chief would know to take a thing like this seriously

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00:24:10,600 --> 00:24:15,600

and they would get out there and we'd get some data, first hand live data.

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00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:21,600

And all we need is a good photograph and really honest to goodness authenticated photograph.

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00:24:21,600 --> 00:24:26,600

We have photographs, but what can you say about them? They're photographs.

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00:24:26,600 --> 00:24:33,600

We don't really know whether they're really authentic photographs or whether they are fake.

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00:24:34,600 --> 00:24:40,600

Well, for anyway, that I would say is the, you've asked me the question of what I would recommend.

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00:24:40,600 --> 00:24:50,600

I think maybe one thing in addition, I would recommend a deferral investigation of a few selected cases, maybe just a dozen.

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00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:55,600

But all we need is one case that has been thoroughly investigated to,

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00:24:56,600 --> 00:25:06,600

that one case like that might produce the evidence that would convince the scientific world that there is something of value in this subject.

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00:25:06,600 --> 00:25:13,600

It's a thing, it's a question, the problem that I would like answered myself because as a sort of a one man team,

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00:25:13,600 --> 00:25:21,600

I simply don't have the time obviously to do justice to this problem.

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00:25:21,600 --> 00:25:30,600

You indicate that scientists have not gotten into this nor even the Air Force very much because it was the providence of the Cooke's.

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00:25:30,600 --> 00:25:39,600

Well, there have also been charges that actually scientists have gotten into this, that the Air Force has gotten into it and the secrets are being kept from us.

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00:25:39,600 --> 00:25:41,600

How do you feel about that?

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00:25:41,600 --> 00:25:46,600

With the question that I get asked quite frequently, am I just a part of a cover-up?

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00:25:46,600 --> 00:25:50,600

Well, I think it's partly a part of a cover-up.

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00:25:50,600 --> 00:26:01,600

Because it strikes the average citizen that if they take the average citizen who finally gets down and read something about UFOs and read some of the reports and stories,

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00:26:01,600 --> 00:26:13,600

it's inconceivable to him that our government, which is so security conscious and would spend all sorts of money on CIA to do this and that,

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00:26:13,600 --> 00:26:23,600

it would seem impossible that our government could be so stupid as not to have investigated something that seems something like this.

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00:26:23,600 --> 00:26:34,600

So they will question me, well, you mean, I've had many people come to me, so you mean to tell me that here this person saw this thing, said he saw this thing,

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00:26:34,600 --> 00:26:39,600

not just one person, but there are witnesses. And this was observed in the radar. This was observed at a missile base.

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00:26:39,600 --> 00:26:49,600

This was observed by an Air Force pilot. You mean to tell me that something, the CIA or the FBI or some high group in the government hasn't investigated this?

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00:26:49,600 --> 00:26:59,600

They just can't believe their senses, I guess, because it seems to them that obviously this would have been investigated, you see.

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00:26:59,600 --> 00:27:07,600

On the other hand, here we have the Condon Committee charged by the government to look into this. And not only are they charged to do it,

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00:27:07,600 --> 00:27:15,600

but they are supposed to have their report reviewed first by the National Academy of Sciences.

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00:27:15,600 --> 00:27:27,600

It's sort of inconceivable to me that there would be a conspiracy which would be making fools of the National Academy of Sciences,

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00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:35,600

which is what we would be doing. If the Condon group, for instance, were a cover-up group and just sort of a smoke screen,

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00:27:35,600 --> 00:27:43,600

well, this is not saying that they're just making fools out of Condon, but they would be making fools out of the whole National Academy of Sciences

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00:27:43,600 --> 00:27:52,600

and a fool of me, too, as far as that goes. So I have no evidence, no real evidence that there is a conspiracy or that there are things that are covering up,

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00:27:52,600 --> 00:28:00,600

because, first of all, it's pretty hard to keep a secret over that length of time. And I feel that

I would have sooner or later discovered some physicist friend

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00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:07,600

or some psychologist friend who I would have stumbled upon the fact that they were investigating it.

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00:28:07,600 --> 00:28:20,600

So you go back to the same hypothesis then that this has just been so in the Cook area that no one has taken it seriously.

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00:28:20,600 --> 00:28:33,600

First, the one thing is, one is driven to that it seems so preposterous that no one wanted to pay attention to it.

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00:28:33,600 --> 00:28:44,600

It's something like saying, somebody coming in and saying, there's a horse in your bathtub. Well, how many people would go look and say, oh, you're kidding me?

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00:28:44,600 --> 00:28:52,600

And of course, there are some people who would take the thing seriously but wouldn't even go to find out what they asked what's the color of the horse.

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00:28:52,600 --> 00:28:59,600

Of course, there are some people who would take the thing seriously but wouldn't even go to find out what they asked what's the color of the horse.

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00:28:59,600 --> 00:29:08,600

Those who believe that there are horses in bathtub, you see. So it's a very strange phenomenon.

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00:29:08,600 --> 00:29:13,600

It certainly is a phenomenon which has caused a great deal of interest.

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00:29:13,600 --> 00:29:24,600

It has, well, Gallup poll people said that when they conducted a poll on UFOs, it had the highest, that question, had the highest, or exhibited,

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00:29:24,600 --> 00:29:29,600

the people exhibited the highest awareness index of any question of that.

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00:29:29,600 --> 00:29:37,600

You know, people have to tell people, if you believe in UFOs or what about UFOs, you don't have to explain the term UFO to them.

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00:29:37,600 --> 00:29:39,600

They already, it's part of the language, you see.

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00:29:39,600 --> 00:29:47,600

So, and the names that are given to UFOs in different countries, every language has its name now for a UFO.

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00:29:48,600 --> 00:29:51,600

Avni's in Latin American countries.

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00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:54,600

Booth does in Russia.

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00:29:54,600 --> 00:29:59,600

And Patiji's Talish in Czechoslovakia.

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00:29:59,600 --> 00:30:04,600

Oh, they all, every nation, every language has a term for it now.

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00:30:04,600 --> 00:30:12,600

So it's rather strange that anything that it had that it's grabbed, you might say, so many people, so it's a great length of time,

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00:30:12,600 --> 00:30:14,600

has not had more scientific attention.

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00:30:14,600 --> 00:30:18,600

And this is all I've been asking for.

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00:30:18,600 --> 00:30:22,600

Is there anything to be given attention?

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00:30:22,600 --> 00:30:34,600

I will not, as some of my colleagues, relative to you, have looked at the data and become so impressed with the data that they have gone,

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00:30:34,600 --> 00:30:40,600

I would say, off the deep end and have declared, have become themselves, you might say, true believers.

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00:30:40,600 --> 00:30:50,600

They feel that the evidence is overwhelming that we are being visited by extraterrestrial beings.

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00:30:50,600 --> 00:31:03,600

I must say that if we take the reports at face value and don't try to look at other possibilities, one is sort of almost driven to that.

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00:31:03,600 --> 00:31:06,600

But I personally, as yet, will not be driven to it.

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00:31:06,600 --> 00:31:14,600

I feel that there's many things about the universe that we don't know, and it's a whole UFO phenomenon.

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00:31:14,600 --> 00:31:21,600

I believe it's quite real, but does not necessarily mean intelligences from other solar systems.

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00:31:21,600 --> 00:31:24,600

What are the other possibilities?

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00:31:24,600 --> 00:31:29,600

Well, there's possibilities that the whole thing is a natural phenomenon.

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00:31:29,600 --> 00:31:35,600

Of course, if I knew what that was, we would have answers.

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00:31:35,600 --> 00:31:42,600

But let us imagine that, well, let us do this, let us imagine that we're sitting around some campfire in the covered wagon days.

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00:31:42,600 --> 00:31:48,600

And the days when horsepower was the only motive power we had.

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00:31:48,600 --> 00:31:53,600

And somebody were talking about nuclear energy, for instance.

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00:31:53,600 --> 00:31:57,600

The term nuclear energy wouldn't have made any meaning.

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00:31:58,600 --> 00:32:02,600

We didn't know those days that the atom had a nucleus.

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00:32:02,600 --> 00:32:08,600

You see, one in just 100 years, look at how the pictures change, suppose somebody has said,

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00:32:08,600 --> 00:32:18,600

well, somebody is going to have such a powerful explosive that it can be equivalent to a million tons of TNT or something of that sort.

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00:32:18,600 --> 00:32:23,600

Well, they would have said, how are you going to get this?

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00:32:23,600 --> 00:32:29,600

Well, you'd say, well, something about the universe we don't understand yet.

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00:32:29,600 --> 00:32:36,600

And in less than 100 years, that's what we at that time didn't understand about the universe was the structure of the atom, the nucleus.

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00:32:36,600 --> 00:32:50,600

And that could very well be that the whole UFO phenomenon is a signal, an index, of another kind of property of the natural universe that we guys yet have not recognized.

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00:32:50,600 --> 00:32:55,600

And then beyond that, if I go any farther, it'll be a pure science fiction.

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00:32:55,600 --> 00:33:05,600

You mentioned earlier that in many of the letters there were signs of fear. Do you think scientists also fear these?

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00:33:05,600 --> 00:33:16,600

Well, the great majority of scientists have not, as yet, looked, have not read enough reports, have not done enough homework to be frightened.

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00:33:16,600 --> 00:33:24,600

And as a result, you see, today, the scientists, science is writing very high, and I think rightfully so.

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00:33:24,600 --> 00:33:27,600

I wouldn't be a scientist if I didn't think so.

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00:33:27,600 --> 00:33:30,600

Scientists' judgments are generally accepted.

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00:33:30,600 --> 00:33:36,600

Their scientists are respected in their communities, and what they say very frequently carries a great deal of weight.

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00:33:36,600 --> 00:33:44,600

So that when, practically, the entire scientific establishment says there's nothing to it, it's utter nonsense.

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00:33:44,600 --> 00:33:55,600

So public doesn't know that these scientists are saying that not as a result of careful study of the data, which they assume that before a scientist would say that something was debunked,

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00:33:55,600 --> 00:33:59,600

that he has looked at it carefully, understands it, has examined the data.

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00:33:59,600 --> 00:34:08,600

They don't know that the scientist, what he's scientist has really done, has abdicated, more entirely, from his scientific,

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00:34:08,600 --> 00:34:14,600

I think, Hippocratic Oath, you might say, and where he's supposed to weigh and consider carefully.

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00:34:14,600 --> 00:34:18,600

But it has simply said, in effect, short-cut, short-circuited, the whole thing, says,

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00:34:18,600 --> 00:34:22,600

well, the whole thing's over-posterous, it can't be, therefore it isn't.

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00:34:22,600 --> 00:34:27,600

This is the thinking process that has gone on, you see.

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00:34:27,600 --> 00:34:34,600

So, well, I guess that's about all I can say on that point.

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00:34:34,600 --> 00:34:40,600

You said you would not commit yourself on the matter of this being extraterrestrial.

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00:34:40,600 --> 00:34:50,600

Do you think it is possible that it could be? Do you think from another galaxy people could come here, or humanoid, I should say, of some kind, could come here?

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00:34:50,600 --> 00:34:59,600

Well, let's first of all take up the point as to whether other civilizations exist or can exist.

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00:34:59,600 --> 00:35:07,600

I think most astronomers today, most scientists would say the evidence, or not evidence, we don't have evidence, except of a statistical nature.

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00:35:07,600 --> 00:35:23,600

But it would seem preposterous, statistically preposterous, that the Sun would be the only star out of billions of trillions to have planets, or at least one planet, with intelligence and life on it.

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00:35:23,600 --> 00:35:28,600

It seems it would be an utter sport of nature, that would be the case.

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00:35:28,600 --> 00:35:33,600

It would be something like saying that only my cat can have kittens.

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00:35:33,600 --> 00:35:36,600

No other cat in the world can have kittens, only mine.

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00:35:36,600 --> 00:35:40,600

If only our star, the Sun, can have planets, no other one can have them.

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00:35:40,600 --> 00:35:43,600

Well, it doesn't seem right, it just doesn't seem likely.

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00:35:43,600 --> 00:35:48,600

But of course the problem is, getting here, the distances we know are so vast,

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00:35:48,600 --> 00:35:57,600

and the ordinary principles of physics are, I can put it this way, that according to our present understanding of physics, it would be impossible.

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00:35:57,600 --> 00:36:09,600

But of course, I can also imagine somebody writing a paper, a very learned paper, in the year 1900, and saying that it's utterly impossible by all the laws of physics to have an explosive greater than TNT.

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00:36:09,600 --> 00:36:24,600

They would give learning equations about showing the ultimate in chemical reactions, and showing that clearly anybody who would believe that you could have an explosive much more powerful than TNT is enough.

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00:36:24,600 --> 00:36:27,600

And yet we have Hiroshima.

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00:36:27,600 --> 00:36:38,600

Now, recently Markowitz in Science has showed quite conclusively, and quite well at any rate, that UFO reports do not obey classical physics.

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00:36:38,600 --> 00:36:41,600

This is something I wouldn't have argued with ten years ago.

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00:36:41,600 --> 00:36:45,600

Obviously the reports don't obey classical physics.

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00:36:45,600 --> 00:36:48,600

But neither do atoms obey classical physics.

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00:36:48,600 --> 00:36:59,600

Whereas Markowitz has suggested that because the UFO phenomenon doesn't obey classical physics, that the Air Force and the Condit Committee in Colorado should shut their doors,

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00:36:59,600 --> 00:37:06,600

he might very well have suggested 30 or 40 years ago that we stop all our physics laboratories because atoms don't obey classical physics.

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00:37:06,600 --> 00:37:17,600

So he's excellent as far as he's gone, but he has written a fine treatise on cows, whereas the problem concerns oranges.

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00:37:17,600 --> 00:37:22,600

So, well, I guess that's about all I can say on that point.

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00:37:22,600 --> 00:37:38,600

The scientist, however, in approaching this problem, and I would say that I, if it hadn't been for the accident of my having been asked to look at this, I would be numbered in that same group.

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00:37:38,600 --> 00:37:46,600

I know it, because I wouldn't have taken the time to look at it, and I would have said, well, it's obviously not, and so why bother?

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00:37:46,600 --> 00:37:56,600

The scientist is so frequently trapped in his own manner of thinking he should think more like a philosopher than a scientist at times.

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00:37:56,600 --> 00:37:59,600

Well, I guess we've come a long way.

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00:37:59,600 --> 00:38:09,600

In your position, you've reaped a lot of criticism over the years that you sat on the data for 18, 20 years without doing anything about it,

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00:38:09,600 --> 00:38:20,600

that you've debunked a lot of reports that were otherwise taken quite seriously, such as Michigan and the swamp gas,

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00:38:20,600 --> 00:38:24,600

and now you're being criticized because you said, let's look into these things.

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00:38:24,600 --> 00:38:29,600

What is your position on all this criticism that's been heaped on your head?

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00:38:29,600 --> 00:38:34,600

Well, it certainly has been heaped, I must say.

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00:38:34,600 --> 00:38:39,600

But as a scientist, science starts with healthy skepticism.

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00:38:39,600 --> 00:38:44,600

There's a difference between being open-minded and being credulous.

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00:38:44,600 --> 00:38:51,600

Open-minded means that you are willing to look into a matter, but it doesn't mean that you're going to accept any cock and roll story.

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00:38:51,600 --> 00:38:56,600

So, so often people mistake open-mindedness with credulity.

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00:38:56,600 --> 00:39:06,600

But without doubt, even today when I go to right field and look at the examiners I do each month, the reports that have come in,

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00:39:06,600 --> 00:39:15,600

my first attempt is literally to knock down every story, every report that comes in, a terracish red, see if it'll stand up.

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00:39:15,600 --> 00:39:22,600

I will not go to great lengths to try deliberately to explain a way of things,

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00:39:22,600 --> 00:39:31,600

but when the thing is obviously Venus and the moon, I'm not going to say that it's something else,

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00:39:31,600 --> 00:39:40,600

but when very clearly I see the report is a meteor, represents a meteor, or a mirage,

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00:39:40,600 --> 00:39:49,600

then I will simply have to pit my scientific understanding of things like that over against ten or a dozen witnesses who just don't understand those things.

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00:39:49,600 --> 00:39:57,600

So I do deliberately go out and try to find a logical, physical explanation for every report that comes in.

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00:39:57,600 --> 00:40:06,600

And as I go through these reports at right field each month, I may go through 20, 25 that are just run-of-the-mill garden variety,

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00:40:06,600 --> 00:40:11,600

you might say, UFO reports, and then suddenly one comes along, which is a corker.

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00:40:11,600 --> 00:40:19,600

Generally, by several witnesses, as far as I can see, good repute,

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00:40:19,600 --> 00:40:27,600

I have no reason, our priority, to negate their story.

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00:40:27,600 --> 00:40:33,600

Therefore, then I come across that, and I've got to really take a very solid and serious look at it.

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00:40:33,600 --> 00:40:40,600

Nonetheless, I still try to find some natural explanation.

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00:40:40,600 --> 00:40:42,600

Sometimes reaching fairly far.

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00:40:42,600 --> 00:40:50,600

Now, in the swamp gas case that you mentioned, I did not give that as the final definitive solution.

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00:40:50,600 --> 00:40:59,600

I merely suggested at the time in my press release that swamp gas was a possible physical solution,

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00:40:59,600 --> 00:41:04,600

because after all, when in two locations you see lights for several hours,

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00:41:04,600 --> 00:41:13,600

and the lights are in both cases associated with the swampy area, isn't it logical to say that maybe the swamp has something to do with the lights?

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00:41:13,600 --> 00:41:20,600

Well, that, as you may recollect, that was a very hectic news conference.

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00:41:20,600 --> 00:41:27,600

I understand from my friends that it was the largest news conference, press conference, ever held in the Detroit Press Club.

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00:41:27,600 --> 00:41:31,600

It was a madhouse and a wild circus, really.

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00:41:31,600 --> 00:41:41,600

And as soon as I got the word swamp gas out, as a sort of possible explanation, the reporters jumped on that.

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00:41:41,600 --> 00:41:47,600

That was it. Not only was swamp gas the solution of the Michigan thing, but as far as the reporters were concerned,

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00:41:47,600 --> 00:41:52,600

it was the solution for all the UFOs. Well, this is not at all what I meant.

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00:41:52,600 --> 00:41:58,600

But nonetheless, I must admit that I've been criticized quite a bit for being a debunker,

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00:41:58,600 --> 00:42:05,600

and I will unabashedly say that anything that I can do to debunk the cooks and debunk the crackpots

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00:42:05,600 --> 00:42:12,600

and the Scheisters and the Charlesons and the people who write carcide books on the subject to make a fast buck,

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00:42:12,600 --> 00:42:15,600

then I think I'm doing a service in being a debunker.

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00:42:15,600 --> 00:42:19,600

But there are two sides to the coin, two sides to the situation.

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00:42:19,600 --> 00:42:28,600

When I do come across a group of serious people of good repute who in all seriousness and honesty

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00:42:28,600 --> 00:42:36,600

have made a report that they didn't want to make, but felt that they should make it because of their civic duty,

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00:42:36,600 --> 00:42:44,600

or out of a very deep sense of scientific curiosity, then again it is my duty to take those reports seriously

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00:42:44,600 --> 00:42:48,600

and do what I can to find out what was the cause of the report.

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00:42:48,600 --> 00:42:52,600

And so we finally come to the crux of the matter and the real question.

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00:42:52,600 --> 00:42:58,600

The real question at the moment at any rate, quite contrary to public popular opinion,

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00:42:58,600 --> 00:43:04,600

the question is not whether UFOs as reported are extraterrestrial visitors

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00:43:04,600 --> 00:43:09,600

or the results of extraterrestrial visitation, that's jumping too far ahead.

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00:43:09,600 --> 00:43:17,600

The question that must be answered and a central scientific question is what causes the UFO report.

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00:43:17,600 --> 00:43:21,600

They might be extraterrestrial, we must keep that possibility in mind,

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00:43:21,600 --> 00:43:29,600

even though we know of no physical means of transporting a being from a distant solar system here,

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00:43:29,600 --> 00:43:37,600

our physics, our knowledge of the solar system, of natural law, simply does not encompass this.

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00:43:37,600 --> 00:43:43,600

We don't know how, but still we must believe it in all fairness as a possibility.

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00:43:43,600 --> 00:43:50,600

But there are, in the universe, there have been total surprises in the past 100, 200 years

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00:43:50,600 --> 00:43:53,600

and I don't think we're at the end of our surprises yet.

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00:43:53,600 --> 00:44:00,600

The UFOs may represent a phenomenon which is as would be estranged to us today,

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00:44:00,600 --> 00:44:06,600

and as unexplainable, because we don't have the words, the means to look at it, to even think about it,

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00:44:06,600 --> 00:44:10,600

as nuclear energy would have been to our forefathers.