



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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June 14, 2000

Mr. Grant R. Cameron
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Sincerely,

HERBERT L. PANKRATZ
Archivist

The New York Times

DECEMBER 19, 1954

AIR FORCE REMAINS CALM WHILE THE 'SAUCERS' FLY

It Doesn't Want to Discourage People Who
Might Some Day Spot a Missile

By ANTHONY LEVIERO
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 — President Eisenhower hit a popular delusion right in the solar plexus this week when he said flying saucers do not come from outer space.

Diligent inquiry at Air Force Headquarters, the source of the President's knowledge, leads to the conclusion that the talk about flying saucers is one of those delusions that from time to time sweep the popular mind, especially in times of stress.

For a number of reasons, however, neither the Air Force nor other Government agencies will officially take the position that flying saucers do not exist.

The Air Force is not making flying saucers itself nor does it believe any other nation possesses them. But it does not want to discourage people from reporting objects they see in the sky. As one spokesman put it, you never can tell when one of these reports might turn out to be the sighting of a Russian airplane or guided missile. Then, of course, somebody is likely to develop a jet aircraft that will be disk-shaped.

One thing, though, the Air Force would like to clear up. That is the idea in the minds of a lot of people that its mission is to determine whether life exists on Mars or other planets.

'Unidentified Objects'

In the matter of "unidentified objects," as the Air Force classifies flying saucers, the responsibility of the Air Force is solely to determine if anything moving around in the upper air is a menace to the United States. So far no flying saucer report has produced evidence of such a menace.

Sightings of alleged flying saucers have Europeans in a tizzy now. In this country 1,700 sightings were reported to the Air Force in 1952, but the number dropped to 429 in 1953 and 254 in the first nine months of this year.

The sightings range from sober reports of real flying objects that prove to be something else besides saucers—mostly weather balloons—to fantastically weird stories, some of them obviously from troubled minds.

One person recently reported to the Air Force that President Eisenhower had been making secret trips to the deserts of New Mexico and Arizona to confer with emissaries from Mars who had arrived, of course, in flying saucers.

Then there was a young woman who wrote from the Netherlands that the flying saucers came from Heaven. She said that if the Air Force would bring her here, her brother would materialize in a golden saucer and explain the phenomena.

Balloons Are Culprits

Upon analysis of the reports, the Air Force has found that 20 to 30 per cent of them were verified as balloons. Balloons as large as 100 feet in circumference are sent up by the Navy and other Government units for scientific purpose. Most sightings are reported at dusk, a time when a balloon may be at an altitude of 20,000 to 30,000 feet and glowingly visible, for the sun's rays are still reflected there at dusk.

Some of the sightings have proved to be natural astronomical phenomena. The Air Force from time to time has placed astronomers under confidential contract to analyze some sightings.

The Air Force is somewhat sad over the dozens of flying saucer clubs in various parts of the country that have no faith in the Air Force. A spokesman said these clubs had the attitude that the Air Force was holding out on them and so they are seeking the truth of the flying saucer phenomena themselves. The Air Force man pointed out that if flying saucers were real it would be more than happy to make spotting them a part of its Ground Observer Corps program and thus get the cooperation of all citizens.

The result of all their research is the conclusion that 8 to 20 per cent of the sightings each month lack sufficient data for clear evaluation, but the rest turn out to be "balloons, aircraft, astronomical bodies, atmospheric reflections and birds."

The New York Times

DECEMBER 19, 1954

'HONEST. THEY'RE JUST RUMORS ...'



The Flying Saucer

Those Saucers

At the U. S. Air Intelligence Technical Center in Dayton, Ohio, a special project known as "Blue Book" or "Unidentified Flying Object Program," has been set up—under pressure. The pressure comes from U. S. citizens who still insist they see flying saucers. "Blue Book's" mission is to try to find out what it is they're actually seeing.

Over the past two years, the number of saucer reports has sharply declined in the United States compared with 1952 when saucers were whizzing all over the place. But recently there has been a rash of saucer reports in Europe. Last week, the saucer puzzle whirled right into President Eisenhower's press conference. This exchange took place.

Q. . . . I wonder if you could tell us if our authorities really do suspect [that the flying objects come from outer space]?

A. . . . A man whom he trusted from the Air Force had said that, as far as he knew, it was completely inaccurate to believe that they came from any outside planet or other place.

Where do they come from? "Blue Book" says they come mostly from the mind's eye—either pure hallucination or misinterpretation of natural and man-made phenomena such as meteors, weather balloons or airplanes.

Handwritten notes:
The flying saucer
was a mystery Nov. Dec 54

'End of World' Doctor Plays It Safe, Wants Balance of December Pay

DECEMBER 16, 1954

East Lansing, Mich. —(AP)— A prediction that the world will come to an end Dec. 21 became a matter of official business yesterday before the state Board of Agriculture, governing body of Michigan State College.

Dr. John A. Hannah, MSC president, reported to the board that Dr. Charles A. Laughhead, a staff physician at the college hospital, had submitted his resignation because of his belief the world will end Dec. 21.

Dr. Laughhead had been an MSC staff member since June 15, 1948.

"I first heard about this business from a delegation of students who came to me," Dr. Hannah told the board. "They said Dr. Laughhead had been holding meetings at his home and teaching the beliefs of some peculiar religious sect."

Dr. Hannah said the group believes the world will end Dec. 21 and that flying saucers from Venus or Mars—Dr. Hannah wasn't sure which—would rescue some of the survivors.

"We understand Dr. Laughhead is disposing of his possessions and is getting ready to move to some mountain top to await the rescue," the MSC president said.

Dr. Hannah said Dr. Laughhead acknowledged holding the meetings attended by college students and that his resignation "was agreed upon."

"We told Dr. Laughhead that his religious beliefs were his own business but we didn't like some of the students being upset," the MSC president said.

"He was perfectly willing to resign and only seemed concerned about getting his pay immediately, for the balance of the month of December."

Dr. Hannah said that as far as he knew no other faculty members belonged to the sect. He said he believed only a few students were personally interested and said he knew of none quitting school to await the predicted end of the world.

"I did hear one student made a down payment on a Cadillac," Dr. Hannah said. "He figured he wouldn't have to make the rest of the payments and wanted to enjoy it while he could."

Members of his family said Dr. Laughhead was "nost" and unavailable for comment. They refused to discuss the matter further.

Doctor Looks For Earth 'Upheavals'

Denies End of World Prediction; Says His Resignation Asked '55

CHICAGO, Dec. 16 (AP)—A young doctor who claims contact with "outer space" today set Dec. 21 as a day of "violent upheavals" on earth.

Dr. Charles Laughhead, a staff physician at Michigan State College, East Lansing, until yesterday, denied, however, he ever predicted the world would end on that day.

Referring to "communications" he said were received by persons tuned in for signs from "outer space," he said there will be "certain cataclysmic effects Tuesday" near Lake Michigan and off the Eastern and Western seaboard.

He said these developments may bring to life ocean-covered legendary continents.

Denies Prediction

But he said he never predicted the end of the world. In Chicago, a similar denial came from Dr. John A. Hannah, president of the college. He said he did not know who originated the report that Dr. Laughhead predicted the world's end. Hannah was in Chicago for an educator's conference.

Dr. Hannah said the college was "not interested in Dr. Laughhead's beliefs." He added:

"Our objection was when his was using his position in the college to propagate students on a peculiar set of beliefs of questionable validity and of a nature likely to upset the peace of mind of the students and affect adversely the quality of their college work."

Dr. Laughhead was reported as submitting his resignation to the school, but he said today he was asked to leave. Dr. Hannah said he had no comment to make on this version of Dr. Laughhead's departure.

Calls Self 'Reporter'

As for his beliefs of pending cataclysms, Dr. Laughhead described himself as a "reporter" for individuals who he believes have been receiving communications from outer space, telling of such world shaking disturbances.

He did not identify the individuals.

"These communications show," he said, "there will be certain cataclysmic effects Tuesday in certain localities. One of them is in the Midwest around Lake Michigan and others are off the Eastern and Western Seaboard."

He said they may cause the legendary continents of Atlantis and Mu, the "birthplace of humanity," to rise from the floor of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

(Several hours before the interview with Dr. Laughhead an intense earthquake shook Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and California. The quake was described as the heaviest of three that have jarred the area since July.)

Means Of Contact

The doctor said the persons with whom he is in contact receive their communications by various means, some as a spiritual medium would by codeappings, some through voices and others through actual contact with men in flying saucers.

"I know two fellows in Detroit who were picked up and given rides in flying saucers," he said. He said, however, he believed the communications originate from "the prophet who is the individual we know as Jesus, and all this was predicted by him in the New Testament."

He said his plans are "personal," and have occurred many times before in the history of the earth. He cited such examples as volcanic eruptions burving cities, mountains rising from the earth's crust, and islands emerging from oceans.

Plans Are 'Personal'

Dr. Laughhead, interviewed at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Martin in suburban Oak Park, declined to say where he would be Tuesday. He said his plans are "personal."

ISC President Hannah said yesterday: "I first heard about this business when a group of students came to me. They told me Dr. Laughhead had been holding meetings at his home and preaching the beliefs of some peculiar religious sect."

Dr. Hannah was in Chicago today for an educational conference and could not be reached for additional comment immediately.

No Sect Involved

But Dr. Laughhead said no religious sect was involved. He said the student meeting under his auspices at MSC were known as the "quest group."

As for his resignation, Dr. Laughhead stated: "I was called into the department head's office and told: 'We'll have to have your resignation, Doctor. You know why. It has nothing to do with your professional efficiency.'"

Several persons were in the Martin home during the interview, including a teacher, a man in his 20s and a youth who would only give his name as "Paul."

Mrs. Martin described how she received her communications from outer space.

"My arm feels warm," she said. "It's hard to explain, but I just put a pencil to paper and write." Her first communication, she said, was simply an introduction to a superior being who said he was "her brother from Venus."

She, too, believes flying saucers are playing a vital part in the communications, but she said: "Don't call them by that vulgar term, say 'discs'."

Vague About Plans

Mrs. Martin also was vague about her plans, saying only, "we are awaiting further word."

Mrs. Martin said her communications have been telling her the cause of the cataclysms will be "fault lines in the earth's crust. It will cause the upheaval will form a sea covering the central part of North America and the West Coast will be submerged."

Prophet Of Doom Sticks To 'Cataclysm' Forecast

CHICAGO, Dec. 20 (AP)—Mrs. Dorothy Martin, prophet of doom for millions, remained calm today on the eve of the cataclysm she says will befall the continent.

Mrs. Martin, who lives in suburban Oak Park, predicted last September that water would engulf much of the land between the Arctic Circle and the Gulf of Mexico Dec. 21. She said also that the West Coast will be submerged from Seattle to Chile.

"There has been no change in my original prophecy," she said. "But we are awaiting further word."

Mrs. Martin's story of things to come, she says, was received from a planet named Clarion in outer space.

Mrs. Martin declined to predict what she will be doing tomorrow. But, she told a reporter, "I will be tomorrow. I have assurance of being. I am making no plans and formulating no ideas."

Visiting Mrs. Martin today was Dr. Charles Laughhead, whose acceptance of her prophecy led to loss of his job on the student health staff of Michigan State College.

Dr. Laughhead made only this comment to a newsmen who telephoned him. "I have nothing more to predict. If I have anything else to say, I'll send it over to you."

Anthony J. Mulaney, Chicago civil defense chief, reminded Chicago residents that the city's 86 air raid sirens will go into their weekly test waits at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow regarding reports of unidentified flying objects moving at great speed.

There was no slackening of the pre-Christmas shopping rush in downtown stores as Mrs. Martin's deadline approached. The restaurants reported no noticeable slackening of diners' appetites.

Coast Guard, fire department, police and utilities officials said that they expected the usual run of emergencies and were ready for them. Reminders of Mrs. Martin's prediction, however, brought reactions ranging from the noncommittal to the indignant.

One waitress, asked what she thought of the prediction, responded: "You don't see me climbing no steeples."

light became more intense and the increase in brightness was accompanied by a wave of heat. The light dimmed shortly thereafter. 155.

December 18th. "GROUP DEFIES IKE'S DENIAL."

Leonard Stringfield, as head of the civilian UFO group CRIFO, was so upset with President Eisenhower he penned a letter of rebuttal and mailed it to the three major news services: UP, AP, and INS. UP rejected Stringfield outright. The AP people hesitated to carry it, telling Stringfield they would have to consult with their superiors in New York, a prudent move since those same superiors vetoed the appearance of Stringfield's message on the newswire. INS however picked up the rebuttal and sent it out to the nation on December 18th:

"GROUP DEFIES IKE'S DENIAL --The publisher of CRIFO Newsletter challenged President Dwight Eisenhower's recent statement that there is no reason to believe the phenomena (saucers) are from another planet. Leonard Stringfield said in a letter to the President that the Air Force possesses evidence supporting his belief the saucers are interplanetary vehicles. Stringfield asked that the Air Force release this evidence which he said consisted of films and the evaluation reports of these films. The publisher claimed Air Force conclusions about the saucers are so serious that some officers have been threaten with court martial if they talk too freely..." 156.

This rebuttal to the President drew a blast from Robert Crater of the Scripps-Howard, a reporter based in Washington D.C. Crater made fun of saucer researcher Max Miller, Jim Moseley and Meade Layne, but saved his biggest abas-ing for Stringfield who Crater characterized as: "...all worked up." 157.

December 19th.

The New York Times comments again. (See newsclippings)

December 19th. St. Louis, Missouri.

"Orange meteor?" (See BLUE BOOK document)

December 19th. Tavorona, Spain. (no time known)

A circular object was seen resting on the ground near the town of Tavorona by a M. Moral Bernal and J. Riguelme Camach. The men tried to approach the object but when they got within 50 meters the thing zoomed away, noisely, on a course that took it in the direction of Portugal. 158.

December 19th. Vienna, Austria. (no time known)

Strange objects were seen in the sky over Austria's capital on the 19th. The Vienna police took seriously reports of unidentified flying objects moving at great speed. 159.

December 19th. Valcencia, Venezuela. (about 11:00 p.m.)

"Hairy little men collect rocks."

The Commissioner of Criminal Investigations for the city of Valcencia, Senor Lopez Ayara, was manning his desk at the police station when he was confronted with a terrified, shirtless, teenager early in the morning of the 19th. The terrified youth, Jose Parra, clamed down enough to finally to tell his story. Parra said he had been jogging along a nearby highway when he encountered a

The New York Times

DECEMBER 16, 1954

President Discounts 'Saucer' From Space

By ANTHONY LEVIRO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—President Eisenhower said today an Air Force official had assured him that flying saucers were not invading the earth from outer space.

That left the inference that if flying saucers were real they were terrestrial. But nobody at his news conference asked the President where they did come from.

All the news on the subject from the Air Force today was reassuring, however. In fact if the Air Force were not laudful it might scoff at the whole business publicly. Some of its spokesmen just scoffed in private.

Air Force officials imply that for a number of reasons they cannot deprecate saucers too freely (though they wish they could). First somebody, some day, is apt to come along with a jet airplane resembling a saucer and then the flying saucer advocates will say "we told you so."

The Air Force also receives a great deal of mail on the subject. Some of the writers are well-meaning persons and get indignant if officials suggest doubt that they actually saw an object in the sky. Then a lot of mail is considered in the "crackpot" class and the Air Force does not want to get any more of this than it has to.

And finally, there is a comparatively small group—but the most troublesome—the writers on the subject. Some of them have been making a good thing of the flying saucer interest and a few have been challenging the Air Force to state categorically that flying saucers do not exist.

The Air Force maintains a serious and continuing study of flying saucers because of "a very definite obligation to identify and analyze things that happen in the air that may have in them menace to the United States."

This study is called the "Unidentified Flying Object Program." "Flying saucers" have been intriguing some Europeans, and the Air Force has received a photograph of some Sicilians gazing at two disks in the air over Taormina, Sicily. The Air Force did not comment directly on this photograph but noted that still pictures in general were "worthless as evidence."

A spokesman said today that 10 per cent of the sightings could not be evaluated because of insufficient data. The other 90 per cent, he said, could be explained on one scientific basis or another.

Recently, when it reported 254 sightings in the flat nine months of this year, the Air Force had placed at 20 per cent the number that could not be evaluated.

If somebody reports a sighting and wishes to help, he is sent a form to fill out. It requests data on date, time, size, shape, composition, speed, altitude, direction of travel, maneuver pattern, color, sound, length of time observed, sky conditions, visibility, ground direction of wind, name, age, and mailing address of the observer, and any other remarks the observer wishes to make.

In the last year the Air Force has sent out about 1,500 of these questionnaires and the results have done no more than confirm the situation—that 90 per cent of the sightings can be explained as not saucers and the other 10 per cent lack the data for proper evaluation.

Two years ago scientists of the Civil Aeronautics Administration turned in a report of research demystifying flying saucers, so far as they were concerned, as optical illusions caused by "temperature inversions"—one of the explanations also offered by the Air Force today.

The Beam Bounces

A layer of cold air gets sandwiched between layers of hot air. Cold air is denser than the hot, and therefore breaks through the hot layer in odd-shaped fragments. That is temperature inversion. These fragments are not visible to the naked eye but can be seen on radar screens.

Radar sends out a beam that bounces back from tangible objects, showing their shapes on the radar scopes. Cold air is sufficiently dense to bounce the beam to the ground. The beam bounces back to the sky and is then strong enough to reflect the fragmented cold areas, moving with the wind.

On the radar screen these swiftly moving fragments look like saucers.

MAYBE FROM MARS, MAYBE NOT

The President of the United States, conferring, as it is quaintly put, with the press, is expected to know everything and to answer any question if the interests of the country permit.

Mr. Eisenhower was therefore asked on Wednesday if he had reason to believe that flying saucers were coming into our atmosphere from outer space. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that he was duly elected to be the Chief Executive and question answerer of the United States by a sizable majority, Mr. Eisenhower was unable to put out anything but negative information on this subject. Nothing had come to him, he said, about it either verbally or in written form—except, he added, that once some time ago a trustworthy man from the Air Force had said that as far as he knew it was, to quote the indirect discourse of the press conference report, "completely inaccurate to believe that they came from any outside planet or other place."

We are thus left in the dark. We don't know any more about flying saucers than we did before. Some enthusiastic supporters of Adlai E. Stevenson may cling to the belief that he would have known all about flying saucers if he had been elected President. He may know, anyway, but he doesn't tell. Nobody tells. People go on seeing them, sometimes in Oregon and sometimes in Taormina, Sicily.

Midwest Target Space Seer's 'Tidal Wave' Due Today

Chicago Daily News

OAK PARK, Ill., Dec. 15—

As the hours ticked away to night and the clock hands loomed their way along, all was still and calm in the home of Mrs. Dorothy Martin.

This, dark-haired Mrs. Martin, was still sticking to her prophecy that the Midwest would be inundated Tuesday by a great flood, spreading from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico.

Mrs. Martin said calmly that she had just received an invitation to attend a cocktail party in a Chicago bar that would continue "until the world ends."

"That is typical of the morose calls I've been getting," she said. "We have to expect that."

The "we" includes several followers, among them Dr. Charles A. Laughead, a physician who was forced to resign from Michigan State College, because of his belief in flying saucers.

All of Mrs. Martin's information comes from outer space and the planet, "Clarion." Without so much as a space helmet, Mrs. Martin gets this dope from the same guys who are, she says, swishing around the earth in flying saucers.

Chicago stores have reported no run on such marine items as boats, life rafts or water wings. But the city was expecting some fuss when its air raid sirens start kicking up their regular Tuesday wail at 10:30 a. m.

It was recalled that in 1919, when an amateur astronomer predicted the sun would explode on a certain day, the noise of a stuck roundhouse whistle caused a minor panic in Indianapolis.

Saved by God

CHICAGO, Dec. 15 (AP)—Dr. Charles Laughead announced today his timetable for the end of Chicago and the rest of the world had been upset by a pre-dawn "message" of reprieve from outer space.

Mrs. Martin said she had received warnings from "Cosmo-voters," who lived on a planet in outer space and checked up on the world during flights in flying saucers.

Laughead said the "reprieve message," when it came, meant the earth is to be saved from his cataclysm.

The former medical missionary said he and his followers were told:

"There is but one God of earth and he is in thy midst. And by his word have ye been saved."

Quake Damage Is Heavy In California Port City

EUREKA, Calif., Dec. 15—

A shuddering earthquake just before noon today did untold damage in this northern California coastal city and caused one freak death by drowning.

Carl Wilkerson, 62, drowned when the sudden shock at 11:55 A. M. threw him into a lumber mill pond beside which he was eating lunch.

Five Small Fires
A score of other persons suffered minor injuries from falling debris or glass.

Nearly every building and home in this city of 15,000 was damaged, most superficially, but adding up to a tremendous property loss.

There were five small fires, four caused by shorted electric wiring. All were extinguished quickly.

The rolling stock was left as far away as Berkeley, 25 air miles to the south, and in a wide area of southern Oregon and northern California.

It was the second heaviest but most damaging of a series of earthquakes in the Far West in recent days.

In Eureka chimneys collapsed, windows shattered and stocks in stores were hurled down in costly displays.

Electric power failed and some gas service was interrupted, but there were no reports of fires.

In the Eureka Humboldt Times and Humboldt Standard offices, typesetting machines were shaken loose and molten metal burned at least two printers slightly. There were about 10 minor injuries throughout town, mostly from glass. A check of all hospitals, however, showed no one hurt badly enough to require hospitalization.

Cracks in Highways
A crack was reported across U. S. Highway 101, the Redwood Highway between Eureka and Arcata, 10 miles north.

The 68-year-old Humboldt County Court House developed large cracks and the building was closed indefinitely.

The City Hall, another old structure, had much internal damage and was evacuated. Streets around it were roped off.

The Federal Building, housing the Post Office and other U. S. offices, was closed temporarily for inspections of broken pipes and cracked ceilings.

Old Port City
Eureka, an old lumbering and port city, has a great deal of wooden construction, much withstood the shock better than masonry.

All old-time residents called today's quake the worst in at least 25 years and possibly the worst in the history of this quake-prone community.

The San Andreas Fault, which caused the San Francisco disaster of 1906, runs out under the Pacific Ocean west of Eureka.

Minor shocks are fairly frequent, the most recent having been felt Dec. 1.

WASH. (AP)—The California earthquake is bearing this out, she said. Mrs. Martin said she would like to reveal more but that the prophets "have not given the authority to do so. I must abide by their decision."

Laughead himself was in Seattle, learning to recordings of the "message" that announced Chicago from the jaws of death today. He said the reprieve came at 4:45 a. m. while he was sitting in Mrs. Martin's home awaiting the end.

Dec. 15 had been the day when Laughead believed a great Michigan tidal wave would wipe out Chicago and earthquakes would devastate the Midwest as a prelude to the final end of the world in 1955.

Earth 'Disaster' Stayed, Woman Prophet Says

CHICAGO, Dec. 15 (AP)—A woman

different than those which have been occurring for centuries. Also, earthquakes cannot be forecast by scientific methods.

(The Weather Bureau in Chicago said the level of Lake Michigan today is about three-fourths of a foot higher than a year ago and unusual fluctuations of the lake level was observed. One of Mrs. Martin's predictions was that a tidal wave would engulf the center of the North American continent from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico.)

Mrs. Martin maintained that "no place here has been missed, at all time have to be missed. What are we in question what has been missed?"

She set no specific time in her latest statement for disaster to occur. "But I have no doubt that it will come as a thief in the night."

Dr. Charles Laughead, who lost no job on the student health staff of Michigan State College through acceptance of Mrs. Martin's prophecies, was among those in her home throughout the night. He was not available for comment, she

LAUGHEAD'S CULT CLAIMS QUAKE IS PROPHECY PROOF

Quoted College Physician Says 11th Hour Reprieve Saves Chicago

Chicago, Dec. 15 (AP)—Dr. Charles Laughead's space cult warned today that the California earthquake is "bearing out" prophecies of worldwide destruction.

But Laughead, quoted Michigan State College physician, said an 11th hour reprieve from outer space saved Chicago from a monster tidal wave scheduled today.

Mrs. Dorothy Martin, 53, leader of the cult who claims to be in touch with informants in outer space, said the prophets have told her that "seismic disturbances would accompany world-wide destruction."

"The California earthquake is bearing this out," she said. Mrs. Martin said she would like to reveal more but that the prophets "have not given the authority to do so. I must abide by their decision."

Laughead himself was in Seattle, learning to recordings of the "message" that announced Chicago from the jaws of death today. He said the reprieve came at 4:45 a. m. while he was sitting in Mrs. Martin's home awaiting the end.

Dec. 15 had been the day when Laughead believed a great Michigan tidal wave would wipe out Chicago and earthquakes would devastate the Midwest as a prelude to the final end of the world in 1955.



At first some calcareous soil was scooped up and placed in a strange phosphorescent box, and then some more of the same material was sucked up by a metallic tube device. This job was finished quickly and the little creatures left the area in their craft.

Very curious, the witness checked the landing site and discovered a number of square holes in the earth. 151.

December 15th.

President Eisenhower. (See newsclipping)

The New York Times comments. (See newsclipping)

December 16th. San Carlos, Venezuela. (evening)

"Hairy-dwarf attack?"

Three young men were driving home after dinner at a city restaurant and as they drove along one of the trio, a Jesus Paz, felt the call of nature and asked the others to stop the car so he could relieve himself screened by some shrubbery in the Ministry of Agriculture Exposition Park. Paz climbed out of the car and disappeared behind a bush. Moments later Paz's buddies were startled by a scream. Instantly Paz's pals scrambled to the rescue and found him sprawled on the ground motionless, at the same time they noticed a "hairy dwarf" running away and climbing aboard a disk-like craft that was floating a few feet off the ground. Angry about the apparent attack on their friend, one of the youths, Luis Mejia, a soldier in the Venezuelan Army, would have shot the "little man" if had had a weapon but all he could do was throw some stones which had no effect.

With a buzzing noise, the dwarf's ship zipped out of sight. With the creature gone, Mejia and the other youth rushed an unconscious Paz to a local hospital. Authorities were impressed by frighten state of Mejia and the other youth as well as the condition of Paz who was suffering from shock and three long scratches down one side of his body.

It was suggested that Paz surprised the "little man" and had fainted when the creature lunged at him. 152.

December 16th.

"Prophet of Doom."

Flying saucers from outer space fail to land and pending cataclysm never takes place. (See newsclippings)

News commentator Frank Edwards discussed the recent Air Force handout, which expressed the Air Force's supposed serious and continuing study of UFOs, with his friend Donald Keyhoe. As Edwards saw it, the American public continued to be confused and hoodwinked by official policy. Keyhoe agreed. 153.

December 17th. Sweden.

A symmetrical metallic sphere zoomed by an airliner while the passenger plane was flying from Malmo to Stockholm. 154.

December 18th. Bersaillin, France. (5:00 p.m.)

A stretch of road near Bersaillin was brilliantly lit, causing a French woodsman to think some sort of big American auto was approaching. Instead he saw that the source of the light was a dark mass about 70 yards away. The

Ike Says Saucers Not From Space

Stockton (Calif.) Record—Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1954

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (UP)—President Eisenhower said today that an Air Force official told him some time ago that so-called flying saucers do not come from outer space.

The President spoke in response to a news conference question. He did not, however, say whether he thinks there are any such things. Or, if so, where they do come from.

The subject of flying saucers came up after a long discussion of defense plans and the world situation.

A reporter said some European governments are investigating "quite seriously" reports of flying saucers. The U. S. Air Force also has been making a long study of unexplained phenomena.

The President also was reminded that a recent book quoted some Air Force officers as believing some of the reported saucers came from out of this world.

CHIEF IS NATTY

Asked for his reaction, the President, natty in a double-breasted brown suit and matching brown tie with small blue dots, seemed a bit surprised at first.

He thought briefly and replied that nothing recently had come to him on the subject.

The last report he had on flying saucers—he did not say just when—was from an Air Force man whom he trusted.

This man, the President said, told him it was completely inaccurate to believe that the saucers came from any other orbit or planet.

The Air Force said recently that during the first nine months of this year 254 sightings of various objects were reported to its Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O.

That compared with 429 reports in 1953 and the peak figure of 1700 in 1952.

"It has been determined that over 80 per cent are explainable as known objects," an Air Force summary said.

SOMETHING ELSE

The experts usually find that the objects are balloons, aircraft, astronomical bodies, atmospheric reflections, or even birds.

The summary added:

"The Air Force would like to state that no evidence has been received which would tend to indicate that the United States is being observed by machines from outer space or a foreign government.

"No object or particle of an unknown substance has been received and no photographs of detail have been produced. The photographs on hand are, at best, only large and small blots of light, which, in most cases, are explainable."

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From: squishy@altavista.com [Print View](#)
Date: 10 Apr 2000 13:21:21 PDT [Show Headers](#)
To: library@eisenhower.nara.gov
Subject: Research Inquiry

I am seeking two items from the Eisenhower Library and am wondering if it might be done by mail rather than travelling to the library.

1) I am looking for a letter written to the President from Admiral Knowles written in 1953-54. I am not aware of whether the letters to the President are filed so that this letter might be found.

2) The second thing that I am interested in is whether any files (or an oral history) were given to the Library from Dr. Eric A. Walker...these would probably involve the Research and Development Board.

Thanks

Grant Cameron

From ghoulies to ghosties and long legged beasties and things that go bump in the night, may the good Lord preserve us.

Old Scottish Prayer

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greetings and salutations. I did not mean to be rude. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D. C. His opening words "Mr. Cuaderno, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Chairman" referred to McGill

196 ¶ Remarks to the President's Conference on Technical and Distribution Research for the Benefit of Small Business. *September 23, 1957*

Dr. Walker, and members of this distinguished gathering:

It is truly a real privilege to be able to come here to greet you, to welcome you to your Nation's Capital, and to wish for you while you are here not only a profitable time, in the sense of some solutions to the problems that you are tackling, but a most enjoyable time personally.

You are here because you are of small business and there are certain problems of small business you wish to consider. I must tell you a little story about small business, in order that we can keep in our heads some kind of definition as to what it is.

Secretary Mitchell recently was riding in a taxicab in New York City and passed a vacant lot where a building had been removed. And the taxicab driver, being a very accommodating and garrulous sort of fellow, and conducting the usual Cook's tour, said, "There used to be an F. W. Woolworth store here. It has gone." Well, they rode on a few more blocks, and they went by a vacant room on the first floor of a store. And it said on the window "F. W. Woolworth." And the Secretary said, "It looks as if F. W. Woolworth had moved out of here too." And this man said, "What this Administration is doing to small business shouldn't happen to anybody."

So I think it is reasonable that we try to keep defined in our own

minds what this thing, small business, is. Frankly, it is the heart of the American economy, and it is because it is the heart of the American economy—consequently of such extraordinary and pressing interest not only to you people and all engaged in it but to your government, to our entire population—that this conference has finally come about. A conference or a committee of citizens was interested in the problem—became interested through the efforts of a Cabinet committee—headed by your chairman Dr. Walker, operating strictly on a small business level, really on a shoe-string. It has finally resulted in this great conference. And you have come here to study problems of research, how small business can be placed on an equality with the largest in the country, and to have the results of good, adequate research both in technical matters and in distribution or in sales processes.

There are many things that have engaged the attention of the Cabinet committee and your government affecting small business that are not on your agenda, as I understand—the problem of taxes, of government procurement, others of this character, that do have importance and will not be forgotten but are not part of your agenda.

Incidentally, about this matter of procurement, you might be interested in the fact as it was told to me by Secretary Wilson not long ago, that in the Defense Department, on contracts, where both small and big business could compete for the contracts, small business has under-bid in two cases out of three—something that speaks very well, I think, both for their efficiency and their energy in going out and looking for jobs and work.

The United States has in the world—and has had for some years—a reputation for a dynamic economy, one that pushes ahead, achieves the latest in all technical advances, and makes certain that the profits—the returns—from the productivity of that great economy are widely shared, certainly more widely shared than any other great country in the world.

If we are going to continue that kind of record—and continue

it we must—then the brains of you people who are in this business must be added to the concern, the welfare, the possibilities, that lie within government and that can properly be used without establishing a new bureaucracy—which will take some more of your taxes. Those things we ought to uncover—discover—and apply.

So, as you go into these great problems of research, I am very proud of the fact that you have gathered here voluntarily, at your own expense—there is no great government subsidy or appropriation that is putting you up. You are here seriously, on a business important to you, and just exactly that important to all America and to the government whose job it is to administer its political and legal affairs at the moment.

To each of you, I hope for you—as I said at the beginning—a profitable time, and that you go home with this satisfaction: that something has been accomplished, that you see your way out through a cooperative system or through the help of government to achieve all your research and make it available to you just as much as the richest company in the United States. And while you are doing it, to feel that here you are with your governmental friends and people that are interested in everything that you do, and that you just have a good time.

To each of you again, therefore, greetings—welcome—and thank you for allowing me to come before you for a minute.

NOTE: The President spoke at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., at 12:35 p. m. His opening words "Dr. Walker" referred to Dr. Eric A.

Walker, President of Pennsylvania State University, General Chairman of the Conference.

197 ¶ Statement by the President Regarding Occurrences at Central High School in Little Rock.
September 23, 1957

I WANT TO make several things very clear in connection with the disgraceful occurrences of today at Central High School in the City of Little Rock. They are:

1. The Federal law and orders of a United States District Court implementing that law cannot be flouted with impunity by any individual or any mob of extremists.

2. I will use the full power of the United States including whatever force may be necessary to prevent any obstruction of the law and to carry out the orders of the Federal Court.

3. Of course, every right thinking citizen will hope that the American sense of justice and fair play will prevail in this case. It will be a sad day for this country—both at home and abroad—if school children can safely attend their classes only under the protection of armed guards.

4. I repeat my expressed confidence that the citizens of Little Rock and of Arkansas will respect the law and will not countenance violations of law and order by extremists.

NOTE: This statement was released at the U. S. Naval Base, Newport, R. I.

198 ¶ Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Little Rock.
September 24, 1957

[Delivered from the President's Office at 9:00 p. m.]

Good Evening, My Fellow Citizens:

For a few minutes this evening I want to speak to you about the serious situation that has arisen in Little Rock. To make this talk I have come to the President's office in the White House. I

U.S. AFFAIRS

THE NATION

Victory at Berlin

The U.S. went into the Berlin conference without any reason to hope for important agreement with the Communists. During the sessions (see FOREIGN NEWS), no invitation to hope appeared. Yet the conference achieved a major advance in international politics.

The Chinese say: "The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right names." Inevitably, under pressure of Soviet threat and promise, Europeans tend to call appeasement "neutralism." Even among the U.S. people and their leaders, there are those who snap at Soviet bait or become confused about Soviet intentions.

Berlin offered no such bait. Molotov was forced to define the Communist position in terms most repugnant to European neutralists and American wish-thinkers. He not only called for an abandonment of EDC (the European Army), but even insisted on the dismemberment of NATO and the total departure of U.S. military support from Europe—a step which French neutralists recognize as prostrating Western Europe before the Red army. On Germany and on Austria, Molotov was compelled to disclose the true Soviet position: the U.S.S.R. will yield not an inch of ground held by military occupation for the sake of European reconstruction or national independence or the hope of peace.

What compelled him to this air-clearing candor? Why did he have to erase the effects of months of Soviet propaganda?

John Foster Dulles, in one of the great diplomatic performances of the generation, defined the anti-Communist position in terms so clear, so acceptable to Britons, Frenchmen and Germans that Molotov's room for propaganda maneuver was taken away. He was boxed into frankness by Dulles' skillful mixture of concession, firmness and lawyerlike analysis.

The first effect was in the relations between the Western allies. For several years, Britain, France and the U.S. have been drifting apart. One of Molotov's obvious goals was to widen the gaps. At Berlin, the Western Three closed ranks. Dulles, Eden and Bidault worked decisively together in a unity long dangerously absent.

Confronted with this united front, Molotov made another of his occasional contributions to the political education of the free world. Seen whole the Communists'



United Press

JOHN FOSTER DULLES
He made the Red witness testify.

present world strategy as disclosed at Berlin is this:

¶ They intend to hold a military line in Europe.

¶ Meanwhile, they will exploit their greater opportunities in weaker Asia.

¶ Their threat to Europe will be used to stave off any Western attempt to thwart their designs in the East.

Anti-Communists who have a hard time understanding the full sweep of Soviet plans and the relation of one threatened part of the world with another should find this helpful. Dulles, Eden and Bidault have succeeded in making the witness for Communism tell the truth. No greater victory was possible at Berlin.

THE PRESIDENCY

The Hunter

"Give me a chance to go hunting," grinned President Eisenhower. "and I'm not going to fool around." The President, seizing his first opportunity in three years, flew down to Treasury Secretary George Humphrey's Thomasville, Ga. plantation last week for a brief quail-shooting holiday. Five minutes after he arrived, on the afternoon of Lincoln's birthday, Ike was togged out in a natty corduroy cap, green windbreaker, whipcord jodhpurs and (as

a protection against the locally prevalent rattlesnakes) sturdy natural-leather boots. Under his right arm, the President carried two shotguns, which he had carefully selected from his own collection: a standard 20-gauge double-barreled shotgun and his favorite, a small .410 "over and under."

When Humphrey and the rest of his party were ready, Ike climbed aboard a shiny black, red-wheeled "Thomasville wagon,"* drawn by two white mules. Secret Service Man James Rowley sat on the tail gate and the others—Secret Service agents, beaters, Humphrey and guests—mounted horses. At dusk, after three hours of shooting in the marshlands, Ike returned with nine quail—three short of a day's legal limit.

Next morning the President was up early and off again in the balmy Georgia weather for more hunting. At noon he helped to broil quail over a charcoal grill. When the day's hunting was over, he had bagged his limit—an even dozen quail. On Sunday, after 36 hours out of doors, Ike emplaned for Washington.

Last week the President also:

¶ Emphatically reassured an agitated Congress, at his press conference, that he had no intention of involving the U.S. in the hot war of Indo-China. The arrival of U.S. Air Force technicians in Hanoi did not mean that U.S. troops would follow. He could not conceive of a greater tragedy, Ike said, than for America to get involved in an all-out war in that region. What we are doing is to support the Vietnamese and French in their conduct of that war against the encroachment of Communism. But there would be no secret military commitment: there is no attempt to carry on the affairs of the U.S. in a darkened room.

¶ Asked Colorado's Governor Dan Thornton, as chairman of the 1954 Governors' Conference, to take a party of governors to Korea about April 1, and appraise the progress of rehabilitation there.

¶ Nominated Career Diplomat John Moors Cabot, 52, to be Ambassador to Sweden.

¶ Presented the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal to British Explorers Sir John Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary for their successful expedition to the summit of Mt. Everest.

¶ Prepared a message to be delivered

* A long, topless wagon with three seats and a built-in kennel for the dogs under the two rear seats.

to Congress this week, asking leave to 1) share U.S. atomic information with other NATO countries, and 2) permit private industry to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

¶ Announced that he and the First Lady would leave this week for a flying, five-day work-and-play vacation in Palm Springs, Calif. as the guests of his old friend Paul G. Hoffman.

POLITICS

Principles v. Fragments

"Could we only hit upon a few great principles," wrote a fellow Democrat to Martin Van Buren during the campaign of 1828, "we should succeed beyond a doubt." In the campaign year 1954, the same politico might have begun: "If we only knew what to do with the principles at hand, we should succeed beyond a doubt," and his prescription would fit either party.

The U.S. lives today in the grip of great principles. The challenge to the free world is Communism—political, military and economic. This challenge dictates the major factors in the U.S. counter-challenge: 1) the U.S. must define clear attitudes on Communism which can be reflected in political and military policies; 2) it must prove the vitality of a political-economic system which both fortifies the free world and preserves the worth of the individual.

Translated into domestic politics, these factors turn into flaming issues. It is essential, for example, that the Republicans examine the Democratic conduct of government for the past 20 years, question Washington's conduct of the Korean war, and expose laxness in internal security. It is incumbent upon Democrats to police the Eisenhower Administration's economic policies, to question whether defense is suffering in the name of a balanced budget, to challenge fiscal policy and new theories of taxation.

But last week, as the 1954 campaign got rolling, Republicans and Democrats alike were dueling with jagged fragments of great issues, to the peril of the issues themselves. The jagged fragment that some Democrats liked best was a charge that the U.S. economy is in a recession and headed for worse (*see below*); they were saying privately that the only way for the Democrats to win control of the House and Senate in the fall lies in increased unemployment and depressed farm prices. The jagged fragment that some Republicans liked best was a sweeping and scurrilous charge that the Democrats form "the party of treason."

It was into this duel that the President of the U.S. stepped with an intuition about politics in 1954 which both parties could profit by. Dwight Eisenhower believes firmly in party responsibility, but, said he, the times are too perilous for extreme partisanship. Moreover, the people of the U.S. know the difference between political wild-talk and fact, and are likely to elect and re-elect on the basis of

The High-School Debate

In a briefing session just before the presidential press conference last week, Press Secretary Jim Hagerty warned his boss that questions on partisan politics had been building up for days. Hagerty passed along samples that had come into his office, and Eisenhower roughly laid out his line of reply. A few moments later, relaxed and ready, the President took his place before 204 reporters in the old State Department treaty room.

The United Press's Merriman Smith cracked the first question. "Mr. President," said he, "the Democrats on Capitol Hill say that bipartisan support of certain portions of your program have been endangered by certain statements which have been made by members of the Administration—statements ranging from



G.O.P.'s JENNER

A splash straight from the gutter.

the fact that the Democrats were soft toward subversives in the Government to labels of political sadism. The Democrats have asked or suggested that you stop the statements."

Program for Americans. Ike grinned slightly, stuck his hand in his pocket and answered. It was quite apparent, he thought, that he was not very much of a partisan. The times are too serious to indulge in partisanship to the extreme. He quite cheerfully admitted that there must be Democratic support for the enactment of certain parts of his program. But without meaning to be pontifical or stuffed shirt, he had tried desperately to draw up a program that seemed to him to be good for all Americans, which included Democrats, and it was on that basis that he appealed for Democratic help.

The New York Times's Anthony Leviero asked if it was not "a kind of class warfare for Republican leaders to suggest

treason or that they are all seeking risks." * Replied Ike: He has seen no statements, but if any such statements were made, he would consider it not completely untrue but very unwise—from a political partisan standpoint. er, in answer to another question, he said that he believed that the ordinary American was capable of deciding what was temperate and just.

Would the President "counsel off" of the executive branch . . . not to engage in extreme partisanship? The correct, said Ike. Would that include chairman (New York's Len Hall) of Republican National Committee? said the President, it would.

Be Kind to Democrats. Back at the White House, Ike issued no further demands or "cease and desist" orders to White House staff, and there were no that the loudest G.O.P. talkers were keep on talking. Attorney General Herbert Brownell got a big laugh in Boston by flipping: "If this weren't being Democrats week, I might talk about Jerry Dexter White." In San Mateo, Calif. Joe McCarthy said he had "no plans for major change in my line of speech" (The line: the nation has just survived "20 years of treason.") And in Jeffersonville, Indiana's Bill Jenner went even further beyond the limit. He said that the "Fair Dealers" did not intend U.S. troops to win a victory in Korea. "Then," Jenner in a prepared speech, "[I] stooped to the ultimate depths—gave away the victory our men had with their blood." This the New York Times aptly characterized as "slaughter straight from the gutter."

The Democrats professed to be mollified by Ike's plea for temperance, quickly readjusted their tactics to Michigan's Representative Louis C. Boutwell called on Ike to fire Len Hall. Tom Sam Rayburn, House minority leader, told the Women's National Democratic Club: "In my opinion, there are no fascists in the United States than there are Communists." He defined fascists "those people who got richest under [the Democratic] Administration."

Super-Responsibility. Some Democrats were getting as sick of the fight as some Republicans. This week Missouri Democrat Tom Hennings told the press: "I am amazed that we should consider running to the President for help. And I am a little ashamed that I should whine and beg him to call off 'boys' . . . None of us . . . is really foolish as to believe that the President's program will stand or fall on the basis of whether the Democrats are treated with kid-glove diplomacy . . . I for one

* Partisan language which prompted recollections of Franklin Roosevelt's 1936 acceptance speech in Philadelphia, where Roosevelt told the G.O.P. as ruled by "economic royals and 'privileged princes of . . . new ecclesiastical dynasties [who] created a new despotism wrapped it in the robes of legal sanction and sought to regiment the people, their labor

administration that employees of the Executive Branch be in a position to be completely candid in advising with each other on official matters." Therefore "it is not in the public interest that any of their conversations or communications, or any documents or reproductions, concerning such advice be disclosed."⁷ This was, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., writes, "the most absolute assertion of presidential right to withhold information from Congress ever uttered to that day in American history."⁸ Earlier Presidents had held that their conversations in Cabinet meetings were privileged and confidential, but none had ever dared extend this privilege to *everybody* in the Executive Branch. Congress was upset, Republicans and Democrats alike. The Army-McCarthy committee members told reporters that they could not possibly carry on unless Eisenhower relaxed the order. He was asked at a press conference two days later whether he intended to do so. "I have no intention whatsoever of relaxing or rescinding the order," he declared. He said he hoped the hearings would end soon, "so these extraneous matters and these things that roam all up and down the alleys of government, of every kind of thought and idea, are kept out of them. Now I hope that disposes of my order."⁹

McCarthy was livid. His real source of power was the power to subpoena, and he knew at once that his whole career was at stake. He therefore made a public appeal to federal employees to disregard Eisenhower's orders and report directly to him on "graft, corruption, Communism, and treason." Eisenhower took up the challenge. When Hagerty discussed McCarthy's appeal with Eisenhower, the red-faced President damned "the complete arrogance of McCarthy." Pacing around the room, speaking in rapid-fire order, Eisenhower said, "This amounts to nothing but a wholesale subversion of public service . . . McCarthy is deliberately trying to subvert the people we have in government. I think this is the most disloyal act we have ever had by anyone in the government of the United States."

Eisenhower told Hagerty to make sure the subject came up at his next press conference, so that he would have the opportunity to tell the reporters "that in my opinion this is the most arrogant invitation to subversion and disloyalty that I have ever heard of. I won't stand for it for one minute."¹⁰ But between the time of that discussion and the press conference, Eisenhower spent another afternoon on the Oppenheimer case. He was beginning to think that the case was even worse than he had feared, that Oppenheimer really was a Communist, and really had significantly held back H-bomb development.¹¹ But whatever the facts, Eisenhower remained determined to avoid a public

debate on Oppenheimer, with its probable demoralizing effect on the atomic scientists. So he did not want to push McCarthy too far against the wall. He did not deliver the rough treatment that he had promised to give McCarthy at the press conference; instead he refused to answer any questions on the subject. He simply held to his order on executive privilege.¹²

Next McCarthy threatened once again to investigate the CIA. Eisenhower was delighted. He explained to his aides, "My boys, I am convinced of one thing. The more we can get McCarthy threatening to investigate our Intelligence, the more public support we are going to get. If there is any way I could trick him into renewing his threat, I would be very happy to do so and then let him have it."¹³ In practice, however, he moved to outflank McCarthy by setting up his own committee "to conduct a study of the covert activities of the CIA," and appointed General James H. Doolittle to head it.¹⁴

The Army-McCarthy hearings, meanwhile, droned on to their doleful conclusion. On June 18, the day after they ended, Eisenhower called Army counsel Joseph Welch to the Oval Office, where he congratulated Welch on his prosecution of the Army's case. Welch said that the only good thing to come out of the hearings was that they had given the nation an opportunity to see McCarthy in action. Eisenhower agreed.¹⁵

And that indeed was the effective end of McCarthy. He still retained considerable strength in the polls, he still had his committee chairmanship, but he no longer had the power to frighten. The Army-McCarthy hearings had degenerated to ridiculous points of trivia, primarily because Eisenhower denied to the committee access to people and records that could have provided McCarthy with sensational disclosures. But with nothing substantial to go after, McCarthy was reduced to ranting and raving (and increasingly heavy drinking), which cost him his credibility. It was not the things Eisenhower did behind the scenes but rather his most public act, the assertion of the right of executive privilege, that was his major contribution to McCarthy's downfall. At the time, few noticed and fewer commented on Eisenhower's boldness in establishing executive privilege, which quickly came to be regarded as traditional.

- In the spring of 1954, the Supreme Court was scheduled to make its pronouncement in the school segregation cases. Brownell told Eisenhower that he thought the Court wanted to delay making a ruling as long as possible. Eisenhower laughingly replied that he hoped

*Eisenhower - The President Stephen A. Ambrose
Simon & Schuster*

then expressed his great fear: "If that should happen while we still have the state of tension that now exists in the world, I shudder to think of what could happen in this country."³³

The more general complaint about Eisenhower's New Look was linked to widespread dissatisfaction with the way he was waging the Cold War. Critics—including not only the opposition party but also the Old Guard, the JCS, the NSC, and often the Secretary of State—wanted a more vigorous prosecution of the conflict, as evidenced by the number of times in 1954 they urged the President to launch an atomic strike against China. But Eisenhower would have no part of nuclear war, unless the Russians actually marched across the Elbe River, and he wanted no more Koreas. He was, however, more than willing to wage an aggressive covert offensive, implemented by the CIA, against the Communists.

Immediately after Knowland issued his call for a blockade against China, Eisenhower called the senator into his office for a bit of straight talking. The President said that "in the conduct of foreign affairs, we do so many things that we can't explain." He had turned on his recorder; Ann Whitman made a transcript of the conversation. Eisenhower told Knowland, "There is a very great aggressiveness on our side that you have not known about and I guess that is on the theory of why put burdens on people that they don't need to know about." He said that he himself "knew so many things that I am almost afraid to speak to my wife." Without providing details, Eisenhower assured Knowland that the Cold War *was* being waged aggressively, that the CIA was busy around the world, "very active, and there are a great many risky decisions on my part constantly . . . but I do try to spare other people some of the things I do." But as for a blockade, or breaking diplomatic relations with the Russians (which Knowland had also demanded be done), "that is a step toward war; if you do that, then the next question is, are you ready to attack? Well, I am not ready to attack."³⁴

Not openly, anyway, but under Eisenhower's direction, as he told Knowland, the CIA was carrying on assorted covert operations around the world. Because it was his chief instrument for waging the Cold War, and because it was so controversial, Eisenhower kept a close watch on the CIA. In late October, he spent an afternoon with General Doolittle and the other members of the committee he had created to investigate the Agency. Doolittle's report on the spymaster was mixed. He thought Allen Dulles had as his principal strength "his unique

knowledge of his subject; he has his whole heart in it." His weakness was in organization and the relatively poor quality of men he had around him. Further, Doolittle felt that the relationship between the Secretary of State and the head of the CIA was "unfortunate." Eisenhower interrupted Doolittle to say he thought the relationship was "beneficial." Doolittle said that Allen Dulles was "too emotional" for his job, and that he thought Dulles' "emotionalism was far worse than it appeared on the surface." Eisenhower again interrupted, saying, "I have never seen him show the slightest disturbance." Continuing to defend Dulles, Eisenhower pointed out that "here is one of the most peculiar types of operation any government can have, and it probably takes a strange kind of genius to run it."³⁵

At the end of the meeting, Doolittle handed Eisenhower the committee's report. Its conclusion was chilling: "It is now clear that we are facing an implacable enemy whose avowed objective is world domination . . . There are no rules in such a game. Hitherto acceptable norms of human conduct do not apply. . . . We must . . . learn to subvert, sabotage, and destroy our enemies by more clever, more sophisticated, and more effective methods than those used against us."³⁶ That was a concise summary of Eisenhower's own views, and described accurately the methods he had already used in Iran, Guatemala, and North Vietnam.

The CIA's other main function was the less glamorous one of collecting and interpreting intelligence. Like everyone else of his generation, Eisenhower had been deeply scared by the intelligence failure at Pearl Harbor; by the fifties, the advantage of surprise to an attacker who had atomic weapons was incalculably greater than it had been in the early forties. Eisenhower wanted information from within the Soviet Union; he especially wanted an early warning on any mobilization of planes or troops. But the CIA had been unable to set up any spy networks inside Russia. Early in 1954, Eisenhower set up a Surprise Attack Panel to advise him on what to do. The chairman was Dr. James R. Killian, president of MIT. A key member was Edwin H. Land, inventor of the Polaroid camera and winner of a Nobel Prize (1952). Land reported that new cameras were available that made high-level precision photography possible. The trick was to get the cameras over Russia. The Air Force had made several attempts, using redesigned bombers and unmanned balloons, but the results were disappointing. Meanwhile, Clarence ("Kelly") Johnson, the top designer at Lockheed, had proposed a high-altitude single-engine reconnaissance aircraft that was really more a kite with an enormous wingspan,

most exactly the words that are forming in my own mind should I make up my mind to run again." Then he speculated on other possible Republican candidates. What about George Humphrey, Eisenhower asked, with Milton on the ticket as Vice-President? "George is one of the ablest men I know," Eisenhower declared, and Milton would add the Eisenhower name to the ticket. Hagerty doubted that Humphrey could get the nomination. Eisenhower groaned and remarked, "You know, I just hate to turn this country back into the hands of people like Stevenson, Harriman, and Kefauver."

Hagerty warned that if Eisenhower did not run, Knowland would get the nomination. "I can't see Knowland from nothing," Eisenhower snapped. "Who else have we got?" Hagerty mentioned Earl Warren. "Not a chance," Eisenhower replied, because Warren was happy where he was, and he was doing a good job. Eisenhower explained that "Earl is one of those fellows who needs time to make decisions and his present spot is the best spot in the world for him. . . . He has a lifelong job and I think he means it when he says he will not enter political life again."

It was Hagerty's turn to ask who else was available. Eisenhower said he thought he knew four Republicans who were "mentally qualified for the Presidency." They were Humphrey, Brownell, Adams, and Bob Anderson. The problem was that none of them could get the nomination. Hagerty asked about finding someone in the Senate. "Actually," Eisenhower replied, "I can't see anyone in the Senate who impresses me at all on both sides of the aisle."

Finding a Republican candidate other than Eisenhower who could win the nomination, get elected, and adequately discharge the duties of the Presidency was proving difficult if not impossible. "Let me try you on something else," Eisenhower said to Hagerty as he began pacing the room. "I think my brother would do anything I wanted him to. I think he would run for President, if I wanted him to." Eisenhower thought he could get the Pennsylvania delegation to go to the convention committed to Milton as a favorite son. Hagerty was as sure as Eisenhower that Milton could do the job, but he warned the President that the American people would resent any attempt to build a family dynasty. Hagerty then repeated that in his opinion the only ticket that could win for the Republicans was Eisenhower-Nixon.³⁷

Even as Eisenhower's thoughts were becoming absorbed with his own immediate political future, he continued to worry about long-

range problems. On December 5, he wrote a thoughtful letter to Dulles on "the continuing struggle between the Communistic and the free worlds." He said the Soviets had abandoned the Stalinist tactic of using force to achieve their objectives, because the buildup of the U.S. nuclear arsenal had deterred Stalin's successors from continuing that method. Instead, they were turning to economic competition. "Now we have always boasted that the productivity of free men in a free society would overwhelmingly excel the productivity of regimented labor," Eisenhower said. "So at first glance, it would appear that we are being challenged in the area of our greatest strength." But because the Soviets were on the offensive, even in economics, they could be selective in deciding where and when to use their money.

To counter the Soviet economic threat, Eisenhower told Dulles he wanted to start creating "economic associations, somewhat as we have done in the military area. . . . What would be even more effective, however, would be the opportunity to plan together *over the long term*." Now was the time to move, when America was prosperous, producing two or three times what the Russians could achieve. "If we, at such a time, cannot organize to protect and advance our own interests and those of our friends in the world, then I must say it becomes time to begin thinking of 'despairing of the Republic.'" Eisenhower said that early in the new year he wanted to get together for informal talks with Dulles, Adams, and Humphrey on the subject.³⁸

At his Cabinet meeting at Camp David, Eisenhower made the Soil Bank and his idea of buying back the homesteads on the Great Plains and returning them to grass the only topics of discussion. At the NSC meeting, he concentrated on the next generation of weapons, the ICBMs. All three services were working on various ballistic-missile projects; Eisenhower said he approved of this approach, but only "with some qualms" because he feared interservice rivalry would lead to duplication and thus delay development. Eisenhower followed up with a memo for Wilson, in which he told the Secretary of Defense "I want to be amply clear that nothing in the way of rival requirements is to delay the earliest development of an effective ballistic missile with significant range." He said, therefore, that he was making an addition to the NSC's Record of Action of the Camp David meeting. He wanted the record to indicate that the NSC "noted the President's statement that the political and psychological impact upon the world of the early development of an effective ballistic missile with a range in the 1,000-1,700-mile range would be so great that early development of such a missile would be of critical importance to the national-

the top posts in his new government, a cause for hope in Washington, but in mid-January he made the Communist Party legal in Cuba, and by the end of the month his first Premier had resigned in protest over the executions of Batista supporters and the increasingly anti-American quality of Castro's speeches. On February 13, Castro himself became Premier, and in the ensuing weeks the executions and the attacks on the United States mounted. On the last day of February, Castro announced that he was postponing, for two years, the promised elections, and Allen Dulles reported to Eisenhower that "the Castro regime is moving toward a complete dictatorship. Communists are now operating openly and legally in Cuba. And though Castro's government is *not* Communist-dominated, Communists have worked their way into the labor unions, the armed forces, and other organizations."⁴⁷

The classic American response to radicalism in Latin America was to send in the Marines, an option that Eisenhower would not even consider, because of Castro's popularity not only in Cuba but throughout Latin America and even within the United States, and because of the probable effect of such action on world public opinion. In any event, the CIA gave him an alternative to the Marines.

Under Allen Dulles' direction, and with Eisenhower's encouragement, the CIA had been conducting covert operations around the world. None were as successful or spectacular as Iran in 1953 and Guatemala in 1954, and some—for example, Hungary in 1956—had been disastrous failures. Nevertheless, covert operations remained one of Eisenhower's chief weapons in the Cold War. His problem was one that confronts every head of government in such situations—how to control the supersecret operations. In 1955, Eisenhower had created a special oversight group called the 5412 Committee, because it was chartered in an NSC Paper, Number 5412. The 5412 group consisted of the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the National Security Adviser (Gordon Gray), and the Director of Central Intelligence, Allen Dulles. In theory, no covert operation could take place without prior approval from 5412. The major function of the group, according to Gray, was "to protect the President." It would scrutinize proposed CIA actions, policies, and programs to make certain they did not get the President or the country in trouble. It reported directly, and only, to the President, who told Gray flatly "that he did not wish the specifics of covert operations to be presented to the NSC."⁴⁸

The difficulty was that the CIA had become so accustomed to

secrecy, and to having its own way, that it was not even reporting its actions to 5412. On January 19, 1959, Gray wrote a memorandum on the problem. He had just attended a 5412 meeting at which Allen Dulles had given a briefing on covert activities over the past six months. Gray complained that all but a handful had never been cleared by 5412. In other words, Allen Dulles was acting, then informing, rather than seeking prior approval. "We need a better understanding of the mission of the Group (5412)," Gray wrote. "It is also clear to me that the criteria with respect to what matters shall come before the Group are ill-defined and fuzzy." Gray thought that the President wanted 5412 to exercise some initiative, but "as long as I have been a member there has been practically none of this." He suggested, for a start, that 5412 direct the CIA to begin organizing youth and student organizations in Latin America in order to counter Fidel's appeal. This was done, as CIA agent Howard Hunt in Mexico City, and other agents elsewhere, began organizing students along the lines of Gray's suggestion.⁴⁹

On January 29, Eisenhower met with Gray, Goodpaster, Allen Dulles, and John Eisenhower to discuss 5412. He covered most of the points Gray had already touched upon, then ordered that "he wished no records kept of 5412 meetings except in the office of the Director of Central Intelligence." He also declared that "covert activities could be carried on only under his responsibility," and that he therefore "wished to be kept adequately informed." He thought this could be done through oral reports from Gordon Gray. When Allen Dulles asked if he should keep the JCS informed, Eisenhower indicated that such an action was not necessary. Thus, in theory at least, CIA covert actions would be known only to the agents themselves, the 5412 people, and the President.⁵⁰ The trick now was to find a way to use the CIA capabilities to get rid of Fidel.

Foster Dulles and his department were getting to be almost as difficult to deal with as Allen Dulles and his people. On November 10, 1958, Whitman complained in her diary that "the State Department regards the President as its chattel." Her specific complaints were minor but irritating. Dulles had talked the President out of going to Seattle on a Sunday night for a Monday speech, "frankly because the Secretary wanted the President's suite at the Olympic Hotel." State would not release a copy of the speech until Dulles had approved it, although Hagerty insisted that the President's approval was sufficient. When the presidential party arrived in Seattle, there "were no seats