

U F O SIGHTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

FORMER CONGRESSMAN

J. EDWARD ROUSH

INTERVIEWED BY

DONALD R. COOK, JR.

U F O S I G H T E RISSUE FOR RELEASE JUNE 16, 1969

The general policy of the UFO Sighter regarding exchanges with other publications is to exchange on a one-for-one basis.

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We have an article put together by us some time back entitled " A Round-up of Some Data: 1968 " here beside us as we type this. As far as we know, this article has never been printed anywhere. The data gathered below may contain some hopefully minor errors as to dates or etc. We do not have the original references here with us, and are going by the text of the unpublished article.

The disclaimer made, we'll first zero in on a case, our information indicates, taken from the Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle of January 19, 1968—an AP release datelined Santa Maria, California. In 1963 a 17 year old girl named Beverly Stephens came out of a swimming pool, looked around in horror, screamed and died. On January 17, 1968 (exact date uncertain to us), the girl's sister, Mrs. Patricia Rush, 23, awoke early in the morning, screamed and died. An autopsy failed to determine the cause of Mrs. Rush's death.

An AP account datelined Oakland, California from the Atlanta Constitution of June 5, 1968 catalogues what appears to be the latest in a series of sabotage attacks on the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Apparently, before dawn on June 4th a series of blasts knocked over three power towers, snapping six 115,000 volt lines and secondary 12,000 volt lines. According to the account two thirds of the service was back in 9 minutes, while some remained out for an hour and a half. The Skyline Grizzly Peak ridge lost both power and telephones to homes. One of the areas hit was said to be the University of California in Berkley, including the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory operated for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. A PG&E official indicated that the charges were quite well done.

According to the Atlanta Journal of July 17, 1968, a series of thunderstorms allegedly knocked out 52 traffic lights in Dekalb County, Georgia (part of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area) in a period of about four days, causing major traffic problems. Dekalb Traffic Engineer Robert W. Roseveare called it the worst lightning trouble they had ever had. He was quoted as saying that normally such storms hit in one area, but that this time they were all over the county. They had never had so many days of trouble in so short a period, according to Roseveare. Also according to Roseveare the cause is not lightning striking the signals, but rather the power surge along electric lines that overloads equipment after lightning strikes.

Another clipping from the Atlanta Journal, October 12, 1968, this time an AP release datelined Space Center, Houston, records a 60 to 90 second power failure in the mission control center allegedly involving the circuit that controls the consoles monitored by the flight controllers during the Apollo 7 mission. A caption under a UPI Telephoto from the Atlanta Journal of September 5, 1968 discloses a power failure at the Florida State Capital, the second in eight days, and allegedly the first such failures in the city in 15 years.

.... Allen H. Greenfield

A N I N T E R V I E W W I T H F O R M E R C O N G R E S S M A N
J. E D W A R D R O U S H (D. - I N D I A N A)
B Y D O N A L D R. C O O K, J R.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - According to my information, it was on March 29, 1969 that Mr. Cook interviewed Former Congressman Roush during a visit by the latter to the Atlanta area. The interview was made on tape. Transcription of taped interviews doesn't appear to be an endeavour that I have had much experience with, so please allow reasonably for the process of transcription and my lack of experience in this area. -Allen H. Greenfield)

COOK: (I am talking) to J. Edward Roush; the ex-Congressman from Indiana. (You represented) which district?

ROUSH: I represented the fifth district of Indiana, which lies north of Indianapolis, south of Fort Wayne; it's in the northeast central part of Indiana.

C: This past summer you held hearings on UFOs?

R: We held what we called a symposium on UFOs. It differed somewhat from a hearing in that the thing was prepared ahead of time, we knew exactly who was going to testify, we had their papers ahead of time, we permitted them to banter questions back and forth, we had all six people participating - all six scientists participating at the same time in order that - well, we thought we might stimulate each other's thinking and we might get thoughts that we wouldn't get if we held a hearing-type thing where one man sits before the committee and only that man is participating at that particular time.

C: From this symposium did you reach any conclusions or make any recommendations to any congressional committee or executive branch committee?

R: The committee itself made no recommendations. The various people involved in the symposium - and I'm referring to the scientists - did make recommendations. Probably the most prominent recommendation they made was that somebody in the government - and they, a couple of them, suggested NASA, some of them suggested the National Science Foundation - should be conducting serious studies into this question of the phenomena of unidentified flying objects. And I think this was taken quite seriously, however there is that usual resistance to expenditure of funds for something that is of a scientific nature; I take the view that it is a scientific problem, and I take the view that it is a phenomena which we don't understand. And it could be many things, and among those many things is the fact it could be visitations from another planet; I'm not myself a firm believer that it is, but I consider that as a possibility which I believe we cannot discount.

C: Why did you hold this symposium; what's your background and interest in UFOs?

R: Well, my background is just ordinary. I'm an attorney; I'm not a scientist. I had practiced law before I went to the Congress (and I went to Congress ten years ago - and left the Congress just this last January). But I had the usual curiosities about UFOs, and then fate decreed that I would become a member of this very great committee of the Congress, the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. And from the time I first sat in a hearing and was permitted to ask a question, I undertook to find people who had seen UFOs. And especially during the early years of the committee, we had many, many military people appearing before the committee and many scientists then and later on. And I would always ask the question, "What do you think about UFOs?" And I always got a variety of answers, but very few of them just totally discounted UFOs. And most of them recognized the fact that it was a phenomena which had not been explained. And most of the - particularly the scientists, although they would say, "I'm not a believer in visitations from other planets, I do think that there is something here we don't understand and we should understand." And I've asked this question of some of the most prominent scientists in this country, including Wernher von Braun, who himself says that he's not a believer but that he thinks it's something that should be looked into.

C: (... What was the main item that got you interested in UFOs?)

R: It just developed; it just developed. And then as I got into it, I became more and more interested, and one of the things that really intrigued me in this whole question was this: The people who have seen UFOs are reasonable people. They are not the kooks. They are not the far-out people. Most of them are Air Force pilots, or airline pilots. Many of them were professional people who were not only curious after they had seen this but were willing to intelligently submit reports on what they had seen. And this made it even more intriguing. And the first thing I knew I was spending a little too much time on UFOs and was beginning to get a bit of a reputation around the Hill as a UFO bug, and every time someone had a UFO problem in their mail or otherwise they'd send them to me. This was disconcerting at times but still it continued to stimulate me in my interest in this field. I've taken many trips. I've been all over the world. Primarily during those trips I was looking at the facilities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and more particularly their tracking facilities. Everywhere I went I'd ask the question, "Did you ever track something you didn't know what you were tracking?" And I would usually get a "no". There were a couple of occasions, however, where the people would just grin and say, "Well, when we have something like that we turn it over to the military and forget it." So, apparently there have been instances where they have seen things on their radar or through their tracking devices that they couldn't explain, although these tracking devices are usually not made for this purpose. Another group I questioned was the group operating the Baker-Nunn cameras, and again I got about the same response from

them. But when I look at what they do, I don't marvel that they couldn't identify some of those specks they get on that film.

C: Did you have anything to do with the earlier hearing back in 1966?

R: No, I did not. That was conducted by the military, it was very short, very superficial and really contributed nothing, I thought, to the question.

C: What have you done about or with the subject of UFOs since the hearing last summer?

R: Well, the hearings were brought together in the form of a report and submitted to the committee and they ordered them published. Now this happened in July or August, I forget the date, and of course last year was an election year and it was impossible that late to follow up and do anything about it. I left the Congress in January and since then I've done nothing more than the ordinary layman in keeping my interest; keeping contact with NICAP and I received a lot of mail from over the country which I try to answer, and hopefully I can continue to stimulate an interest in this subject, and more particularly I'd like to be able to stimulate it on the part of Members of Congress because I think one of these days there's going to be such a public clamor for more information that Congress is going to undertake a very serious study - I don't call the Condon study a very serious study - but they're going to undertake a very serious study of this phenomena. (Interviewer Cook may have interjected approval of Mr. Roush's reference above to the Condon study. - Editor.)

C: Would you care to comment further on the Condon report?

R: Well I think the results of the Condon report were predetermined before they ever undertook their study. There was a memorandum issued which indicated exactly what they were going to say before they ever started their investigation. Now I don't fault Dr. Condon on this particularly; Dr. Condon is a very busy man and he turned much of this over to this group that was brought together for him and they're just now out to substantiate their findings and most of these that they looked at were- were cases that could be explained and to me it's just apparent that they undertook to justify a report which they had previously conceived in their minds and intended to put in writing.

C: What are your own beliefs about UFOs?

R: Well, I'm not a believer in visitations from other planets. I think that this is a phenomena which has been unexplained, and that phenomena could be due to many things and that it could be the result of many things. One of the things that it could be - and I don't discount this - it could be visitations from other planets, although it's in my mind not the perhaps most logical thing. I don't believe you can strike it from the list, however. Most scientists would agree that

there is life on planets which belong to other stars and that there are billions and billions of these planets which are part of other universes and that it's entirely possible that life could have evolved on those planets just as it has evolved on Earth. And it's also possible that they could be a billion years older than we, and that their intelligence is so far beyond ours that it must make us look rather insignificant. This is using one's imagination I realize, but on the other hand I think it cannot be completely thrown out of the picture.

C: I think we've covered just about everything; do you have any last comments on UFOs, or...?

R: Well, for anyone who might be listening to this, I would suggest that if they do see something they don't understand, and if they see what they believe to be a UFO, they should report it immediately, either to the Air Force or to local authorities or if there is a UFO committee in their area they should report it to them. One of the things that we have found is that people are very, very reluctant to report sightings. They have the idea that people will think they're a little off their rocker if they do report. However, it's only through a complete and thorough compilation of evidence and material that we can ever reach a satisfactory conclusion on this. And so, I would urge people to report anything they see which shows the slightest sign of being something they don't understand in the skies, and that maybe through their efforts - even though at the time it seems insignificant - we will be able to arrive at some firm scientific conclusion with regard to this problem.

C: By the way, do you plan to run for election again?

R: Oh, yes. I was defeated the last time; this is my excuse, the State of Indiana because of the one man, one vote rule was redistricted and they gave me an impossible situation, but even with an impossible situation we did so well in a bad year for Democrats that I think I'll probably try again.

C: Thank you very much.

(end of interview)

From the same collection of material used in connection with the article on page two of this issue of the UFO Sighter comes this item: A UPI story datelined South Charleston, West Virginia from the Miami Herald of July 25, 1968 discloses that a cloud of chlorine gas, which escaped after an explosion of a dry bleach storage tank, precipitated a temporary evacuation of the city's 20,000 residents. Over 200 persons were treated at area hospitals for gas inhalation.

The following section is reprinted from SKYLOOK, Box 129, Stover, Mo.

ALLEN H. GREENFIELD, Editor of UFO SIGHTER, 2875 Sequoyah Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Ga., says: "With reference to the article 'Those Men in Black!' (SKYLOOK, March 1969) the 1968 Congress of Scientific UFOlogists in Cleveland, Ohio, included a rather lengthy discussion of the Men In Black cases during the closed sessions, plus a lecture on the subject at the public session by Robert Easley.

"It simply isn't a cut and dried matter. I think that we should keep our feet on the ground and recognize the considerable possibility that there is nothing objective to these cases, but it should also be recognized that there is a reasonable possibility that these cases do have a substantive base.

"Old cases including Bender and Maury Island have still not been solved to my satisfaction, while more recent cases such as that of a Cleveland UFOlogist and the incident involving two Texas policemen are also yet unsolved. The book is by no means closed, in my opinion.

"The telephone 'crank call' business is still another matter. It may be that 'breathing' calls fall into a totally different category from the monotone voice calls and the 'noise' calls. Of the latter two, I have had one of each, both having taken place last year. It is a distinct possibility -- and I fully recognize this -- that such calls could be hoaxes of one sort or another. But there is also inconclusive but interesting evidence to the contrary."
 Comment: Fair enough. Thanks for writing and come again.

(End of section reprinted from SKYLOOK.

The above was from the May, 1969 issue, page headed "THE READER WRITES".)

In the May, 1969 issue of Anomaly, Edited by John A. Keel (Specialized Research, P.O. Box 351; New York, N.Y. 10016) we find in a section headed "Men In Black" (pages 13-14) this comment on an alleged "type" of "Man in Black":

"...Men with Oriental features, dark complexions, slight stature and a heavy, undefinable accent are also frequently reported. These men sometimes pose as salesmen or poll-takers..."

We find in Geography Of Witchcraft by Montague Summers (University Books, First printing 1958; Second printing 1965) on page 331 a reference associating the term "Black Man" with the Devil, along with a mention of a supposed indian-like appearance attributed to the Devil by Witches. In another book by Summers, The Werewolf (University Books, First printing March, 1966), an alleged case of a werewolf (circa 1603) involves a "Lord of the Forest" (page 233) described as being tall and dark, dressed in black. Possibly oriental-looking men may be involved in the 1897 case of Judge Lawrence A. Byrne, reported in the Texarkana, Arkansas, Daily Texarkanian, April 25, 1897, and included in Lucius Farish's "Then And Now: A Comparison" column in Alternate Horizons Newsletter, Volume Two, Number One.

Fort Rucker, Alabama
28 January 1969

Allen H. Greenfield
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Dear Mr. Greenfield:

Here's a letter you can publish commending one of your Sighter articles.

Kudos to Mr. Edward M. Biebel for his Open Letter (UFO Sighter Volume Seven, Number Two) to the 1968 Congress of Scientific UFOlogists.

I heartily agree with a good percentage of his comments and particularly his style. He has evidently shed that "conservatism" which really has nothing to conserve.

Two of his points are especially true: the lack of centralism and the lack of a basic program of action.

Although Mr. Biebel comments in a P.S. that he feels the Congress, because of its agreeable reception of the open letter, may be finally moving, it is my opinion that little has changed. The basic problems cited above remain.

His comments on the 1968 Congress are equally applicable to the 1969 Congress, as when he says: "A genuine effort must be made this year or now is the time to disband the Congress."

The time is now, even before the Congress - to discuss the most efficient means to advance UFO Research - not the "movement", not public-relations, not punch cards, but original in-depth research. Now is the time to thrash out the principles and practicalities. So that when Congress time arrives, we are ready to adopt and ACT UPON resolutions that are useful in resolving the basic questions of UFOlogy - not the side issues.

Another quote from Ed: "If nothing is done, I...will publicly get out of UFOlogy...I will never again having anything to do with these people who call themselves scientific UFOlogists."

Amen. You asked for it, brothers!

Sincerely,

Richard S. Hack
Richard S. Hack