

UFO Sighter

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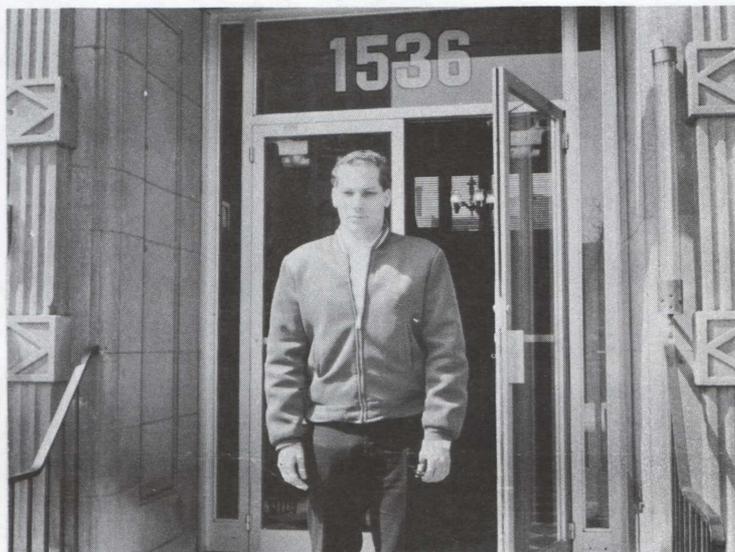
In This Issue

"THE TRUTH ABOUT NICAP"
(Part II --- Personal Account)

by Eugene R Steinberg

WINTER, 1966
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Photos: Upper Left, L-R: Martin Salkind; Rick Hilberg; Major Donald E. Keyhoe; Eugene R. Steinberg, Upper Right: Eugene R. Steinberg outside NICAP's Office (building). Lower Left, L-R Allen H. Greenfield; Eugene R. Steinberg; Rick R. Hilberg outside "1536 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C." Lower Right, at door of NICAP's Office. (Photos by Martin Salkind and Allen Greenfield.)



The year 1965 started off with a bang. The UFO wave in Virginia seemed to be a continuation of the flap of '64, but as things turned out it heralded the beginning of a year exceedingly rich in UFO happenings of all kinds.

When 1965 rolled in it found me just about a block from the celebrating mob in Times Square, New York, with, as memory serves, Eugene Steinberg of APIC and Saucer News, and independent researcher Harry Hoffman. I was in New York to discuss, among other things, the upcoming UFO convention. This was one of my prime projects for the year, and a few months later I found myself in Washington, D. C. with Eugene Steinberg, Martin Salkind, and Rick Hilberg to discuss the extent of NICAP's support of the Cleveland Convention. As things developed, we managed to have a cordial meeting with Major Keyhoe; talk to Little Listening Post editor Clara John via phone, and have an unpleasant incident at NICAP's office with Richard Hall, all in a couple of days' time. Then, in June, there was the convention in Cleveland, which turned out to be quite enjoyable, if hectic. Then, in July, it happened.

It may have been the biggest wave of UFO reports in history. Certainly, it was the biggest since the last peak year, 1957, and quite likely exceeded that. The publicity was better than usual, although still inadequate. There was the photo from South America; the EM report from the Azores. Then, in early August, a UFO epidemic seemed to break loose in America's midlands. UFO reports were concentrated heavily around Oklahoma City, but managed to stretch from California to Florida. Many were good reports. Photos were taken. Radar trackings were logged. Then the wave trailed off.

Due to a new arrangement, the UFO Sighter picked up a large number of fresh subscribers with the Fall issue, and it took a lot of time to get straightened out on that score. Administrative hum-drum took up a lot of my time, but by the latter part of October I found myself off once again to Chicago, where I met Moseley, Steinberg, and Hilberg who had come to visit with Ray Palmer, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, and new UFO author Jacques Vallee. Our Chicago colleague, Dale Rettig, was also there for a part of the time. Though we missed Hynek and were only able to talk with him on the phone, we met with both RAP and Vallee. No sooner did I get back to Atlanta, when the first meeting of the new AMUFO affiliate group, the Civilian Saucer Intelligence Agency under the Chairmanship of Donald R. Cook, Jr., was to be held. I got back from Chicago on Monday, and the meeting occurred on Wednesday. The local meeting was a big success with a large and seemingly interested crowd. During the course of the night I managed to film a television interview; give a slide lecture; do a newspaper interview; and sell magazines.

Yes, 1965 could, I think, aptly be described as both hectic and rewarding for this writer. I feel that this has been a great year for the revitalization of UFOlogy, and for new opportunities in research. 1965 was a year of expanding horizons.

...I think it was on November 1st that I received a new UFO publication, called UNI-VERSAL REPORT, coming from Jeffrey Murray of Madera, California, with apparent support and participation by Norman Schreiberstein & Co. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It seems to be dangerously close to a revival of the old teen UFOlogy movement, and contains an attack on the American UFO Committee and (apparently) myself. I rather like the spirit of the publication, and wish it well. But I nevertheless want to set the record straight on a few points.

In his Editorial, Mr. Murray states: "...The American UFO Committee has made it clear that the contact side of UFOlogy is utterly out of their program of study. Not only that, but those who try and present the facts on these contacts must be as crazy as the contactee..." As AMUFO Editorial Director, I would like very much to know who gave this impression. So far as I know, AMUFO has no official position on the contactee, except that which appeared in the first issue of the Review, dated March, 1964. In an unsigned article on page three entitled INTRODUCTION: THE

AMERICAN UFO COMMITTEE, it is stated: "...The Committee's policy towards the so-called 'contactee' is that no concrete evidence has yet been offered by any of these individuals to substantiate their claims of contact with extra-terrestrial beings..." This seems to me to be a long way away from excluding study of the contactee. To the contrary, it indicates that our minds are open.

On the next page of the first UNIVERSAL REPORT, Murray goes on to say, "...If all UFOlogy joined into one group, as Hilberg, Rettig and Greenfield..." seem to suggest (the typing is unclear after "Greenfield," the letters "mi" appear and we assume Murray means "may" or some such) "...then the contact side would probably never be heard of again in ufology..."

This is, of course, nonsense. In the first place, I advocate cooperation in the UFO field, not amalgamation as Murray's statement seems to imply. Under present circumstances, a big overall group would be impractical and not in the least desirable. I don't think Mr. Hilberg or Mr. Rettig differ from this appreciably. The second point I wish to make is that we fully recognize that the contactee wing of the UFOlogy movement is unique unto itself, and is of no concern to me so long as it does not try to impose its views on others. From a personal standpoint, I think it can be said I get along quite well with the contactees, though as stated above, I have yet to hear one who can prove his case. I have met contactee Major Wayne Aho on cordial terms. Under my editorship Dr. Frank Stranges' article, "The Mystery of the...Contactee" appeared in the October, 1962 issue of the UFO Sighter (Volume 1, Number 7). In a letter to me (headed: Allen Greenfield, American UFO Committee, Atlanta, Georgia) dated 22 September, 1964 Dr. Stranges stated, in part: "...You are doing a much needed work..."

To sum up, we keep an open mind about the contactees, and try to maintain good relations with them. To my knowledge, no contactee has ever spoken ill of AMUFO. The same goes for the UFO Sighter.

On a later page of the UNIVERSAL REPORT, a question is raised as to the validity of the coverage of the Congress of Scientific UFOlogists, since "...All the information we have received was gotten from the AUFOC (sic!-Ed) or some of its members..." We might have suggested that the UR people attend the next Congress and judge for themselves, but they suggest that very thing later in the same paragraph. I, for one, certainly hope they do attend, both to "see for themselves," and because I'd like to meet Mr. Murray and associates. In reading their magazine, I can't really decide whether they are for us or against us, or a little of each. In any case, I welcome this dialogue with what may develop into a new generation of UFOlogists, and hope that it can be carried on in a spirit of constructive discussion, rather than useless and self-defeating conflict. If Mr. Murray or any of his colleagues wish to respond or comment, we will endeavor to make space available to them in this magazine at an early date.

...As we write these lines, we do not know the exact length this issue of the Sighter will be. The last issue, we now know, was much too bulky, and included a few editorial and other mistakes which we are endeavoring to eliminate. We would like the Sighter to be THE UFOlogical journal of theoretical opinion in America, and are working toward that goal. Your suggestions, letters, comments and criticisms are most welcome. We are also always in need of good articles on UFOs, so if you have a knack for writing and an idea on the UFO field, please let us know about it. And don't forget to renew your subscription. It's only a dollar per year. Our address is 2875 Sequoyah Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30327, U.S.A.

THE EDITOR, UFO SIGHTER:

Erdmann has glossed over a very pertinent point about the Glassboro landing. No one can state with any degree of certainty that the tree allegedly uprooted at the site was not in that condition prior to the alleged incident. Normal effects of erosion would produce the same results over a period of years. While I would hardly term NICAP "mistake-prone," I nevertheless feel they are guilty of conducting an insufficient investigation.

As the editor has said, many of the statements in "NICAP, the Space Pancake, Perplexities" are directed towards me, although I have not been specifically named in the article.

I would suggest that Erdmann reread the quotations of Ray Palmer's statements. The numerous contradictions he seems to find do not, in fact, exist. Saying that military men are prone to secrecy, and that Major Keyhoe does not want saucers proved, or any combination of these statements, does not render them mutually exclusive. I would humbly suggest that Erdmann try to determine the meaning of these remarks before judging them.

As I said in the first installment of my article "The Truth About NICAP," it was Richard Hall who lead the public to believe that NICAP had refused to analyze the "pancake." It was on his statements that the attacks by Moseley and Palmer were based. I might also add that Erdmann has juxtaposed the order of their appearance. Although dated earlier, Moseley's article did not appear until a short time after Palmer's. This was because Moseley had been in South America concluding some of his business affairs there, and, owing to his delayed return, he was several months behind schedule with SAUCER NEWS.

I do not attempt to defend the attacks, however. That is best left to the authors. My only comment is this: Under the erroneous impression fostered by Hall, some criticism was indeed necessary.

Erdmann continually expresses his aversion to mysticism. But he is equally mysterious when he darkly hints at some private correspondence he has received in which Stanford's contactee background has been pointed out. I was one of the persons who mentioned this to him, and I must say I am at a loss to understand his point.

How can a personal letter constitute an attack that must be publicly refuted? Is not Erdmann responsible for spreading this information, even though he objects so strenuously to it? This is but another instance of the double-think in which he continually indulges.

NICAP's strongly anti-contactee attitude has been pointed out. Moreover, their wholly unexpected use of a report prepared by a contactee was their contradiction, not mine. But they covered their tracks well. Notice the deliberate omission of any reference to Stanford's past in the UFO INVESTIGATOR. Undoubtedly, his investigation was conducted with some degree of impartiality, because he was cautious enough to delete any mention of his private beliefs.

Erdmann has once again made his habitual statement about "rote criticizers." "Rote" would be defined as "automatic, without conscious thought," a reflex action, if you will. In point of fact, there was a great deal of conscious contemplation involved in the "criticizers" disregarding Stanford's connection with the contactee school of saucer research. In his continuing debate with himself, Erdmann admits to this.

I also agree that an agency should be created that would assist in maintaining liaison between larger groups such as NICAP and smaller but equally serious organizations. Unfortunately, NICAP has chosen to pursue a path of their own. I would have no objection to this decision, had they not indulged in a covert whispering campaign against myself and other researchers, and other tactics to which I refer in the second part of my article.

Yes, I am egotistical, and I have admitted it in print, despite Erdmann's protestations to the contrary. However, I am still capable of admitting when I have been wrong. Can Erdmann say the same? If someone, be it Erdmann or anyone else, can prove anything I say to be wrong, I sincerely wish they would do so. I want to know the truth, whatever it may be.

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The Editor, UFO Sighter:

Concerning the Steinberg article (Part I), I would make the following comments. It is humorous, in a way, to see a letter from Steinberg saying "In a so-called objective appraisal, imaginative and totally unsupported conjecture...has no place" and then to read, a few pages later, a totally fatuous attack on NICAP, complete with "imaginative and totally unsupported conjecture." Steinberg screams of Hall's "audacity to list himself as 'Acting Director' of NICAP"...dear me, sir--have you so quickly forgotten that people do get promoted for good work? You went from Advertising Manager (Dec. '63) to Managing Editor (Mar. '65) of Saucer News...is this "audacity" on your part or were you legitimately promoted by Jim Moseley? If you had read, Mr. Steinberg, THE UFO INVESTIGATOR with clear eye and open mind, you would have seen on page 8 of Vol. 2, No. 10 (Dec. '63/Jan. '64) that Hall was promoted to Assistant Director. Further, realizing that the term "Acting" (an in-office term) was open to misunderstanding by some people, NICAP reaffirmed Hall's title as Assistant Director in the current (Vol. 3, No. 4) issue. (In fairness to Steinberg, something he should learn to practice towards others, I'll grant that this latest announcement came after he'd prepared his anti-NICAP article.)

As for his blatherings on the "space pancakes" business--two comments should suffice. He complains that NICAP persisted in "regarding the 'pancake's' origin as 'cloudy'." What did you expect, Mr. Steinberg? Immediate acceptance of the pancake as an extra-terrestrial comestible solely on the basis of heresay evidence? Simonton's story had NO verification other than his claim for the pancakes--whose outward appearance were perfectly earthly. NICAP had the cake sent to it analyzed as soon as it was able to do so and the results did nothing to support Simonton's story of space visitors. In Judge Carter's letters, as printed by Palmer (whose motives are certainly suspect, to say the least), I found nothing to indicate either judicial objectivity or lack of prejudice.

The entire Steinberg attack is, I strongly suspect, a direct outgrowth of personal pique towards Dick Hall and cannot, therefore, be considered as valid, constructive criticism. Nor does it even conform to the Code of Ethics adopted at the 2nd UFO Congress.

GEORGE W. EARLEY, PRESIDENT
NICAP CONNECTICUT AFFILIATE

The Editor, UFO Sighter:

First, Gene (Eugene Steinberg-editor) seems to be somewhat confused as to what I am doing towards Comella...the "least" of which I am trying to TOTALLY DISPROVE

HIM! I am trying to modify and reconstruct strongly some points that I feel incorrect in his general thesis. Again, you most certainly don't feel that Comella is TOTALLY WRONG, do you? To the contrary, many of the things he has introduced NEED TO BE DISCUSSED, and not irresponsibly ignored and/or suppressed! The very thought of "driving away" or deliberately ignoring a documented and certified thesis (which Comella has gathered) is anti-scientific! The axiom is not to ignore and wait for the "sun to fall" (as some are doing in regard to UFOs), but to tackle what has been said, and try to "beat some facts out of this raw material"! And Comella has presented pertinent material, though inconvenient for our personal "wishes". In other words, I find some of the things Comella has said (with my own complaints) as real and pertinent to scientific endeavor as much or more than much of the hodge-podge I've been seeing. I have no intention of "wishing Comella to 'go away'!"

Gene's criticism of Bob Berry's account of the alleged "crashed saucer" is well taken. It is as reasonable an assumption for the garbage collector, as the Air Force. However, I base my assumption upon a detailed history over government "confiscation" (which would take a book itself), which we DO have a record of. We don't have record of garbage men collecting crashed saucers. I'm reminded of the strange, almost compulsory urge the government has shown in regard to "physical evidence," where encountered. They seem to go to "spiritual" lengths. I was once confidentially told of a case (and it stays that way) of a researcher who found a pure UFO fragment (not APRO), wrote a friend about it, and before his friend could have possibly received the letter, came home to a ransacked house, and missing fragments out of the safe. And the lady in question did mention going to the authorities.

Concerning Part I of Gene's NICAP appraisal, I find no real fault with it, as it pertains to Hall, and not to many of the NICAP members and staff--which I know aren't guilty of the legendary rote attacks that have been directed towards said organization. Richard Hall is serious in his endeavor to be "scientific"--but his "cautiousness" is no longer accurate! I believe Hall needs an appraisal, for the sake of the remaining members, though it will take more than words, and real constructive action "for" NICAP and not one wishing to dissolve it for the sake of SAUCER NEWS or some other organization! This takes a certain amount of humanity "for" NICAP, not for one's self. I would be interested in hearing what Gene has planned on this note. Part I was interesting, but I will reserve complete judgment till I have seen Part II.

STEVE ERDMANN

The Editor, UFO Sighter:

I think your idea of running the full story of the Washington "fiasco" in the next issue of the Sighter is an excellent one. It should serve to show some "NICAP loyalists" just what sort of person Richard Hall really is. I don't want to seem a fanatic on this one point, but Hall must go before NICAP can ever accomplish anything worthwhile. You may quote me on this if you care to. I've already told Hall what I think of his methods.

LUCIUS FARISH

The Editor, UFO Sighter:

My best wishes to you and your staff as you continue this good work which may yet pay off with concrete results in our time. With the exception of the study of man himself and his inner nature and destiny, I know of no field of research so intriguing and awe-inspiring in its implications as the UFO phenomenon.

VINCENT H. GADDIS

THAT UFO CONVENTION

By Allen H. Greenfield

When I arrived in Cleveland after a long and tiring drive from Cincinnati, which, in turn, was immediately preceded by an equally long and tiring train trip from Atlanta, I was annoyed to find that they hadn't as yet put up the marquee announcing the forthcoming UFO Convention in front of the Holiday Inn where it was to be held. As soon as I checked in I inquired about this and was told it would be up shortly.

The event at hand was the Second Congress of Scientific UFOlogists, the only serious convention held annually in the flying saucer field. The day was Tuesday, June 22, 1965, two days before the opening of the convention. As founder of the event, I had arrived in Cleveland early to help with last-minute preparations.

After getting settled in my room, I telephoned Rick Hilberg, the Administrative Director of the American UFO Committee, to let him know I was in town. He briefed me on recent developments, and we agreed to meet at the motel that evening for dinner, after which we would begin to attend to the "hundred and one" little things that always seem to come up right before an affair of this kind. That evening we got as much of this trivia out of the way as we could, as some of the delegates were expected to start coming in the next day. Despite the necessity of getting an early start, we didn't manage to get through until the wee hours. It had been a more or less exhausting day, but we had accomplished a great deal. I fell asleep (finally!), tired but happy.

The next morning Hilberg picked me up at the motel for breakfast. We had a lot of work to get done. Tired and not feeling too well as I was, it looked to be a long and unencouraging day ahead. Hilberg drove me to downtown Cleveland to see a bank window where a display advertising the Congress had been set up. I must say I was impressed. Here, on a busy street in the metropolitan business area of a major American city was a large bank window exhibit consisting of large saucer photos, magazines, and placards of varying descriptions. I took a few photos with my polaroid (none of which came out well), and then left to take a look at the Pleasant Valley Auditorium some miles away where the open session of the convention was to be held Saturday night.

The auditorium seemed to be a fine place, though it worried me that it was a little remote. Nevertheless, Hilberg assured me that many UFO-oriented people lived in this section of town, and that the location was better than it seemed. I was also told that a local radio station had been giving publicity to the event for over a week and would continue to do so right down to the wire. We walked into the empty building and after some difficulty located the supervisor. With the "super" we went over the details of seating microphones, and the arrangements for display tables. This proved to be a rather cumbersome process as the gentleman didn't seem to be able to understand exactly what we wanted. It ended with HIM telling US what we wanted to some extent, and Rick and I left in what could not be described as our most optimistic mood.

That evening we met Al Manak, the Chairman of the Cleveland UFOlogy Project, and were treated to dinner at one of Cleveland's finest downtown restaurants by Rick Hilberg. Over dinner the three of us who together with Dale Rettig comprised the executive board of the American UFO Committee, discussed various organizational problems; problems with the convention at hand; and the prospects for future conventions. We waited around and then proceeded to the local bus terminal to await the arrival of David Halperin, the director of N.J.A.A.P., who was coming to the Congress from Levittown, Pennsylvania. When Dave arrived we returned to the motel for the first of a series of informal bull sessions that were to be the very heart of the Congress itself. Some of the things discussed were, if memory serves, the alleged saucer landing near Glassboro, New Jersey which Dave believed to be genuine and I did not; and a trip to NICAP's headquarters in Washington, D. C., by Rick Hilberg, Eugene Steinberg, Martin Salkind, and myself made earlier in the year with most unfortunate results (see FLYING SAUCERS MAGAZINE, August, 1965 issue).

As the hours ticked by our discussion became more and more engrossing, but time claimed its

inevitable toll and Hilberg and Manak excused themselves to go home to their, by then, no doubt, impatient families. Halperin and I were by this time so wrapped up in a discussion of the Glassboro case (among other things) that we decided to go on talking (we were sharing the room for the night anyway). We didn't turn in until about 3:00 A.M. After two days like this, almost constantly on the go, I was ready to welcome a good night's sleep. I slowly drifted off.

Of course that was when the phone rang. It was Eugene Steinberg calling from the lobby of the motel. The New York/New Jersey SAUCER NEWS delegation had arrived and was having difficulty getting rooms. Their reservations, it seems, could not be filled until 9 o'clock that morning. I invited them to come back to our room, offering them what little space I had. It was about 3:30. I think I may have had a total of 5 minutes' sleep.

By the time I was halfway dressed, the expected knock came. I opened the door to Jim Moseley and Gene Steinberg. They started to say something, but I motioned them to be quiet so as not to awaken the slumbering Halperin. I figured there was no sense in keeping him up, too. The way I was by this time feeling, I would wish on no other person!

Jim and Gene ushered me out in front of the hotel where a sleepy brood stared disinterestedly at me from Moseley's car. This was the SAUCER NEWS delegation to the Congress in toto, consisting of: James W. Moseley, Editor of SAUCER NEWS; Eugene Steinberg, Director of APIC and Managing Editor of SN; William Witt, an independent delegate; and SN staffers Y.N. ibn Aharon and Michael G. Mann. The whole crowd looked understandably haggard.

Moseley, after conferring with the desk clerk, informed us that arrangements had been made for them to be put up in another motel until morning, so off they all went except Steinberg who elected to stay. The rest of the night (what little there was of it) Gene and I discussed everything under the sun, under the moon. When dawn's early light finally came, Gene managed to get a room. Halperin moved in with him, and I finally fell into a much needed, but all too short, sleep.

By that afternoon the delegates were almost all present. Our first real informal session was scheduled for that evening, June 24, 1965. The date is significant in that it represented the 18th Anniversary of the "first" flying saucer sighting. So, in they came from across the country. Tadd Jach and Ed Bisconti of the Society for the Advancement of Rocket Technology were there. Dale Rettig, our co-director in the American UFO Committee came in from Chicago.

The session was due to start in a few minutes, so Steinberg, Halperin and I stepped across the street to get a quick bite to eat. Time was so short that we elected to get the food "to go" and eat during the session. Hilberg and Rettig joined us and we walked back to the motel.

As our first formal session would not be held until the next day, this one took place in my own room which by this time was beginning to vaguely resemble Grand Central Station. It was quite crowded. In addition to the persons previously mentioned, Elmer Schutt of the Cleveland UFOlogy Project was also present. Until Al Manak arrived, I was to moderate. As it turned out, I conducted the entire meeting. Topics ran the gamut of the entire UFO field. Several important points were made. Michael Mann, a photography expert, stated that although there were several UFO photos he "liked," he had yet to see one he could not duplicate under lab conditions. It was suggested that the Congress draft a resolution on ethics in UFOlogy. This drew almost unanimous approval. The session ran amazingly well and quite a great deal was accomplished. Afterwards, some of the delegates adjourned to a nearby restaurant for talk, beer, more talk, food, and still more talk.

The next morning was (for a change!) uneventful, except that Jim Moseley was invited to tape a television program for one local station. In the afternoon a number of delegates assembled to draft a proposed ethical code for UFOlogy. A good deal of the code was authored by Yonah

ibn Aharon (who did the typing), by myself (who dictated off the top of my head), and several others (who chimed in). During the course of this, the phone jangled and Moseley, Hilberg, and I took off for the WKYC Television Studio for another program. It was Moseley who was to be "on camera" .. for the second time that day!

While we were gone, Dave Halperin drafted a memo he proposed to attach to the general version of the ethical code. This brought quite a bit of hostility from other delegates, and an objective observer might have seen this as the beginning of the first (and only) major conflict of the Congress.

The time had come. The sign in front of the Holiday Inn in big red lights read: AMERICAN UFO CONGRESS. Inside, in the Mt. Vernon room, a large U-shaped table had been set up. Allan Manak was the Chairman, Mrs. Manak the Secretary. Also present were Earl J. Neff, UFO lecturer, and Lawrence Blazey, Chairman of the Cleveland UFO Society, as well as the numerous other delegates on hand. Manak called for order and the first formal session of the 1965 Congress of Scientific UFologists began.

Discussion centered around two topics: the ethical code and its variations, and the prospects for better coordinating UFO reports and information. On the latter point, it soon became clear that no great improvements could actually be made over the present hit-or-miss system, simply because of the lack of time and funds. The original draft of the ethical code was passed intact with an almost absolute majority (except for me; I abstained for strategic reasons). Dave Halperin's proposed memo met with strong opposition, particularly from the SAUCER NEWS delegation. AMUFO, the CUP, and other groups seemed divided on the subject and several hours of debate ensued. There seemed to be a deadlock with no solution in sight. I favored continuation of discussion so that we could get this out of the way once and for all and move on to other things the next day, but I was defeated in both this and in the motion to limit the time of debate the next day. I was quite upset and feared the entire convention might become bogged down over this one, relatively unimportant, issue. After the session, however, a compromise was worked out, largely between ibn Aharon and Halperin.

The Congress banquet-luncheon was held the next day in the Mt. Vernon Room. During the course of this meeting (which rapidly approved the revised memo) a new group of people arrived from Baltimore. In contrast to the day before, this meeting ran quite smoothly. A suggestion was made to ask Thomas Comella, who had apparently written an unfavorable review of the previous year's Congress, to attend our Sunday Morning Breakfast which was to be the closing session of the convention, to discuss his article. Since he was expected to attend the Public Session at the auditorium that evening, Jim Moseley was delegated as a committee of one to invite Comella. The invitation was later refused by Comella, or so I heard.

After dinner that evening, we were preparing to leave for the Auditorium when the SAUCERS, SPACE, AND SCIENCE delegation arrived from Canada. We all gathered around the delegation head, Gene Duplantier, editor of SS&S. It was agreed we would leave for the auditorium en masse shortly thereafter. We took off in high spirits, three carloads of UFOlogy delegates from all across the continent.

When we got to the auditorium, people were already beginning to fill up seats. Concessions and exhibits for the various groups were being set up and an excited atmosphere prevailed.

The open session was not quite the success we would have liked it to be. In the first place, our turn-out (due to the location, and other factors) was not all that we could have wanted. Though attendance from out of town was seemingly pretty good, the local attendance was not up to what we expected. Also, there were a number of minor factors during the course of the session that were somewhat bothersome: difficulties with the microphones, the slide projector, etc. But, on the whole, we had an interesting two and a half hour meeting. The keynote speaker was Jim Moseley, who had led off the previous year also. He spoke on the subject of mysterious incidents connected with the UFO field. He relinquished part of his

speaking time to Rabbi Yonah ibn Aharon, who gave by far the most fascinating lecture of the evening on the subject of extraterrestrialism. Also speaking was Mr. Lawrence Blazey of the Cleveland UFO Society. A heated debate on the controversial Glassboro, New Jersey case between David Halperin and Eugene Steinberg was also conducted.

About midway through the program, host Allan Manak called a 15-minute break. After the break, Mr. Earl J. Neff was introduced. Neff gave an illustrated lecture using a unique slide projector showing some of the more fascinating aspects of UFOlogy through the ages. This was topped off by a question-and-answer period between the audience and Jim Moseley, Gene Steinberg, Rick Hilberg, and myself. After the close of the session people gathered around the speakers to get autographs and discuss their ideas and theories. Despite some shortcomings it had been a pleasant and enlightening evening.

But the night was still young. One of the local saucerers invited all of the delegates to his home where a skywatch and party were to be held. It was a long drive, but it proved to be well worth it since this, in my opinion, turned out to be the highlight of the entire Congress. A large crowd was present. It turned out to be a dual event. Outside, it was a brilliant night and a number of people gathered around to watch the stars and talk shop. An interesting sidelight to this is that, entirely independent of the convention, a UFO landing was reported in another section of Cleveland at about the time of the skywatch. Inside, a lively party was going with lots of saucer discussions of the good old-fashioned variety of the early days of UFOlogy, when the UFO subject was new, fresh, and exciting. I floated back and forth between "inside" and "outside" groups, enjoying it all immensely. The party went on for several hours. I had the photo experts in attendance all scratching their respective and collective heads over an unusual photo I had taken with my polaroid quite innocently at the public session earlier that night. It showed a group of people sitting at the session in a perfectly normal fashion, but with a man standing in the foreground COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT!!! I hadn't noticed the man when I took the shot, and the peculiar image only came to my attention later. The photo boys worked it over quite a bit during the course of things, but never did come up with an answer entirely satisfactory to me. So, never let it be said that odd things don't happen at UFO Conventions. Even the serious ones!

But, all good things must end...or so says the adage. So, Hilberg, Rettig, Halperin, Steinberg and I piled into Rick's car and started back for the motel. After losing our way for quite a while, we finally made it.

Sunday morning came, and virtually everyone turned out for the final session of the Congress, the delegates' breakfast. True to form, Manak conducted it like a meeting. It was held in the now-familiar Mt. Vernon room. Some business was discussed, plans for the next Congress were mentioned, and an atmosphere of good spirit prevailed, despite the almost universal tiredness caused by several days of conventioning. Manak adjourned the meeting somewhere around Noon, and the Second Congress of Scientific UFOlogists ended on a "thoroughly optimistic note," to quote myself.

In evaluation, there are several notes I can make about this Congress in particular which may well have implications for all future events of this nature. To begin with, I feel that the Congress probably did more for cooperation and understanding in the UFO field in a few days than had been done through other methods in the previous 18 years. If you think this is a bold and sweeping statement to make, consider: To my knowledge, NEVER BEFORE in the history of UFOlogy have so many serious investigators been gathered together. Much was learned about the UFOs themselves, and the value of interpersonal relations of this kind cannot easily be measured. A few years ago a gathering of this sort would have been thought impossible. Some would have thought that so many serious investigators simply could not be brought to one central point, while others would have feared that if they WERE gathered, they would probably "tear one another to shreds." But, history now shows that these investigators WERE brought together, and all got along quite well, differences of opinion being hanged!

CHRISTIANITY AND THE UFO

PART II

By: Huey P. Beasley

One of the purposes of this series is to make available to readers certain facts which we may term "background information," which will be useful in evaluating various contactee stories and UFO theories.

The history of this planet and of its inhabitants is one field of pertinent information. The written history of mankind only extends back a few thousand years, perhaps 8000 years. Much has been said of prehistoric man, so much that it may come as quite a surprise to many, to know that there is no direct evidence that any such being as "prehistoric man" ever existed. Yet, this is a fact, and I can prove it. To be sure, some men--and groups or tribes of men--have lived, of whom we have no written history. But there is no evidence that men lived earlier than did those men of whom we do have a written history.

The Encyclopedia Americana, in an article entitled "History, its rise and development" states "...it is no longer accurate or logical to use the term 'prehistoric', unless it is employed to designate that vague and hypothetical period in the beginnings of human development of which there exists no positive and tangible record..." (Emphasis mine). Further, we find in Approach to Archaeology, by Stuart Piggrett (page 53), that the idea of "prehistory" was developed as a means of repudiating the Biblical record of mankind. The whole concept of "prehistoric man" is simply part of the overall attempt to account for the existence of man apart from God and the Bible.

Someone is sure to ask now, What about the skeletal remains of such as Neanderthal man, Java man, Cro-magnon man, etc.? Well, in the case of Neanderthal and Cro-magnon man, several skeletons of each have been found. They are all definitely human, and there is no evidence that they were in the least inferior to modern man. They may have been, if anything, superior. They had larger brains, in many cases. And in all other cases, such as Java man, Peking man, etc., the "scientific concept" of what they were like is built usually on a single skeleton, or more likely on a few fragments of a skeleton. Thus there is no real evidence that such was representative of the race. Further, skeletons of modern man (Homo-Sapiens) have been found in layers of earth equally "old", and often quite nearby these fragmentary "primitive" remains. So this is no evidence of "prehistoric" man.

Nor can the advocates of a long, evolutionary process of human development find support in the various methods of "scientific dating" of the Age of Fossils, rocks, etc. No dating method is absolute, simply because "all" such methods are based on certain assumptions. If the assumptions are true to begin with, the method may be reasonably accurate from there on, but no one knows whether the assumptions are true, and there is no possible way to prove it. Further, the assumptions are generally such that, any wrong assumption which throws "one" method off, would tend to throw "other" methods off in about the same way. Therefore, a correlation between two methods has little value unless it can be shown that the assumptions on which the two methods are based are of an entirely different type and order.

For example, take one method of dating the age of the earth itself. There are three different isotopes of Uranium which decay into three different isotopes of lead at three different rates of speed. Calculations of the age of the earth, based on this method, must assume that (1) meteorites from space came into being at the same time as the earth, (2) the lead in those meteorites was all there as lead originally (at present they contain no Uranium), and (3) the meteorite lead was of the same kind and same percentage composition as the lead which was in the earth when the earth originally took form. Not to mention the difficulty of determining the average composition of all the earth's lead. The Potassium-Argon method rests on similar assumptions.

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Likewise, methods of dating the age of "fossils", such as the much-publicized carbon 14 method also rest on unprovable assumptions. Chief of these is the assumption that Cosmic radiation has always entered the earth's atmosphere at the same rate at which it does now. From studying the Carbon 14 in tree rings of trees which are very old, this has been proven to have fluctuated up to 20-30% within the past 2000 years, and in ancient times it may have varied much more than that. The amount of cosmic radiation may vary tremendously from one part of the universe to another, and probably does. Greater radiation (which the earth may have passed through) in ancient times, would lead to assigning an age not great enough to older fossils, and, conversely, passing through an area of less radiation in ancient times would lead us to assign an age to fossils "greater" than the "actual" age. Besides, other factors may also have caused the radiation to vary greatly in ancient times.

I use these examples, which I have simplified and abbreviated as much as possible, to demonstrate that all of these methods of dating are, at best, working hypotheses only, and not "facts", as they are too often presented to the public. They are subject to constant revision and modification.

The Bible itself gives us no indication of how long ago the earth was created. Also, there is no specific statement as to how long man has been here. However, Biblical geneologies, as well as the chronologies of other near eastern ancient cultures, would indicate that man was created in the neighborhood of 8000 years ago. Certainly it is clear in the Bible that man was "created" as man, and did not evolve through countless lower life forms before becoming man. In our next installment, we shall consider more of the evidence, and show that science, that is, the facts which actually have been proven to be true, actually disprove the whole concept of evolution and uniformitarianism.

What has this to do with the UFO? Well, it gives us a much more accurate knowledge of our own past history, and it disproves the claims of "space men" who claim that man evolved, and that there is no God, etc.

This has been done on several occasions. One notable case, is recorded on page 99 of Flying Saucers and the Three Men, by Albert K. Bender, "We watched your people develop from small sea creatures into what you are today." Again, on page 122, "That (Belief in God) is a creation of your people...all your people have had the desire to worship something during their evolution. They, growing like small children, wanted to have an anthropomorphized idea to cling to..."

This is obviously an attempt to sound "scientific" and to repeat the latest materialistic propaganda. Those same statements might have been read from the pages of many of our most "advanced" textbooks. Therein lies the greater tragedy...not so much that a few so-called space men spout such nonsense, but that it is accepted and taught as fact by most of our Colleges and Universities!

We will continue next issue, to evaluate the theory of evolution in the light of scientific facts.

THE TRUTH ABOUT NICAP (Part II--Personal Account)

By Eugene R. Steinberg

Richard Hall, the plenipotentiary executive head of NICAP, cannot tolerate the independent efforts on the part of Ufology's younger generation to fathom a solution to the flying saucer enigma. He has not succeeded in maintaining good relations with them, because of his intense personal prejudice against their activities. Rather, many of his efforts seem to have been designed to suppress such free enquiry.

I first became acquainted with one of Hall's more ambitious and widely-publicized projects in this direction when I visited him at NICAP's office in September, 1963. Accompanying me, and testifying to the accuracy of the following account, was my close friend and colleague, Kenneth Alpert, who served as Associate Editor of my late and lamented "UFO Reporter."

I was hopeful of meeting Major Donald E. Keyhoe, to whom I then thought devolved the immense responsibility of running NICAP. His fourth book "Flying Saucers: Top Secret," published in 1960, left the distinct impression that Major Keyhoe conducted much of his legendary activities at NICAP's office. There I expected to find him, busily engaged at combating the powerful "UFO censors," as he termed them, to cause a breakthrough in the dissemination of UFO information.

Ken and I asked the receptionist if Major Keyhoe was available. To our astonishment, Keyhoe was not present, and we discerned some reticence to discuss his whereabouts. Ken suggested that we leave, but I was quite curious to inspect NICAP's operations at close range. Even though my hopes of speaking with Major Keyhoe would not be realized on this particular occasion, I decided to at least remain and talk with Richard Hall, and direct to him my questions about NICAP's affairs.

As I confronted Hall, I found that my mental picture of him was substantially accurate. The man who stood before us was of slight build, six feet in height, with horned-rimmed glasses, and thinning brown hair. He almost invariably gripped his pipe between his teeth, and stared at us with cold, impassive eyes. Hall spoke softly in a slow Southern drawl, and his conversation occasionally lapsed almost into inaudibility.

Hall uttered some off the record remarks which revealed a pent-up hostility towards James W. Moseley, Editor of "Saucer News." Then he cleverly directed his discussion towards his newest brainchild, the forthcoming NICAP "Youth Council." Although not given to overt emotion, Hall seemed unusually proud and optimistic about his new project. He conceded that it was primarily an expedient to divert the attention of the so-called "teen" researchers towards supporting NICAP. He hoped thereby to persuade them to abrogate their extra-NICAP pursuits, which were essentially devoted to conducting the operations of their own UFO organizations, and editing their own publications.

Hall photocopied a news release which he then gave to me. Later, when I had the opportunity to peruse it more carefully, I found that the concept of the "Youth Council" had crystalized into more of a concrete form than was evidenced by Hall's alternately direct and evasive description of it. The conviction that the new effort bodes ill for the flying saucer field was formed after a careful analysis of the possible implications of the creation of the "Youth Council." The key paragraph in the release which served to confirm Hall's candid admission, reported that "the only restrictions (for membership) in addition to the age limits are that the Council member must be an NICAP member who is willing to work for NICAP's goals, and must not be an active member or a regular contributor to any other UFO group or publication."

Hall proclaimed himself to be an advocate of civil liberties, yet one could hardly believe him when faced with the reality of the "Youth Council." NICAP is evidently attempting to

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stifle free and impartial consideration of UFOs by the younger generation. They are being inculcated with the thought that it is necessary to conform to the specific objectives that are in accordance with NICAP's announced goals. Furthermore, they are being dissuaded from learning how to think for themselves, a tool that is a prerequisite for coping with our increasingly complex society, where people are rapidly becoming creatures of habit who have lost the ability to decide for themselves. The ramifications of this attempt frighten me. I strongly believe that NICAP should abandon their present course and, instead, actively encourage young people to persue a course of their own choosing, and to form their own conclusions about the myriad mysteries of life that regularly face man.

Hall defeated his own ends, however, and for that I was glad. He was ignorant of one important fact that rendered his entire plan impossible of accomplishment. The "teen" researchers whom he had hoped to attract with the inviting prospect of a position in NICAP and its accompanying status, were no longer teen-agers. Many were already in their final stages of formal education, and some had already embarked upon their chosen careers. Moreover, anyone with a modicum of perspicacity could envision the ulterior motive behind the creation of the "Youth Council." They knew that to enlist would be tantamount to placing the muzzle upon themselves, for only a naive child could actually expect to be able to exert any influence in such an insignificant position.

The audience to whom Hall directed his attention did not bite the bait placed so tantalizingly before them. The only members to join the "Youth Council" had never even been associated with the independent UFO activity that Hall resolved to halt. The slowly increasing roster is announced periodically in "The UFO Investigator." Rather than fulfill any particular assigned task for NICAP, they have become cognizant of their lack of importance and have banded together to form their own clique, which resembles in its approach some of the more worthless "teen" UFO groups of the late '50's, which, fortunately, no longer exist.

Yes, Hall had unwittingly created his own monster; a "teen" UFO group which edits its own and quite inferior publication. It was the very type of organization he had so vigorously opposed, combining the worst characteristics of a phase of Ufology we hope is never fully revitalized. Where this exercise in futility will lead, I cannot say.

The most recent chapter in the sordid history of NICAP was written on April 12, 1965. Once again, I had confronted Hall's desperate efforts to consign rival organizations to the limbo of inactivity, forever branded as outcasts of Ufology. My first inkling of what was to eventually occur came in the form of a letter from Richard Hall, dated January 28, 1965.

I had queried him about the possibility of meeting with him and discussing the Congress of Scientific Ufologists, with the aim of enlisting NICAP's support. The outlook was not good, for the letter was quite characteristic of Hall's contemptuous attitude towards all persons and ideas with which he disagreed. Amidst gratuitous sneers at Jim Moseley and Yonah ibn Aharon, he injected this remark: "I'm not aware that the so-called Congress of Scientific Ufology (sic) has advanced the cause one iota. In fact, I am very much afraid that it has given more people the impression that the pro-UFO people are primarily pretentious kids, misfits, and eccentrics."

To anyone who was aware of what actually transpired at the first session of the Congress, held in 1964, this analysis was as far from the truth as it was possible to get. Not only was a great deal accomplished towards the end of promoting unity in Ufology, but several famous UFO personalities were directly responsible for making the event a success. Rather than being permeated with undesirable elements as Hall alleged, the Congress consisted of many people that even NICAP found acceptable in their narrow span of conformity.

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Such a person was Earl Neff, a close friend of Major Keyhoe, and the cover artist for NICAP's eight year report, "The UFO Evidence." Hall was responsible for committing an error of catastrophic proportions.

But despite the feeling of pessimism that pervaded my thoughts, I felt that every effort possible should be put forth to dispel Hall's lingering doubts about the Congress. Accordingly, I made arrangements to journey to Washington, D. C., when Allen Greenfield, the editor of this magazine, invited me to join the Congress delegation. I brought with me to the meeting Martin Salkind, recently a Contributing Editor to "The UFO Reporter," and a prospective NICAP member. We met Greenfield, and Rick Hilberg, Editor of the popular UFO journal, "UFO Magazine" on the morning of Sunday, April 11, 1965.

The meeting with Hall had been scheduled for Monday morning. Thus our first order of business was to visit Major Keyhoe in Luray, Virginia, where he now lives.

As Rick drove us towards our destination in his Oldsmobile, I mentally reviewed the circumstances under which I had finally met NICAP's famous Director, some 18 months earlier. Keyhoe had struck me as quite a pleasant chap. He is a small man, about five foot seven, but he is every inch a military man.

Major Keyhoe greeted my companions cordially. When I introduced myself to him, I wondered what sort of treatment I might expect. Since last meeting him, I had become a member of the staff of "Saucer News" one of NICAP's most vociferous critics through the years. Recently I had been promoted to the position of Managing Editor. Being intimately connected with what Major Keyhoe obviously considered the opposition would certainly put me at a strong disadvantage in getting along with him. But the only thing that clouded that meeting was the somewhat dreary, rainy weather. Keyhoe could not have accorded me better treatment, even though he was fully aware of my status.

We enthusiastically entered into conversation with Major Keyhoe.

After several minutes, it seemed obvious that he was becoming increasingly disturbed over Hall's supercilious and dictatorial attitude towards many NICAP members; yet he seemed utterly helpless to accomplish anything towards rectifying this unfortunate situation. This seemed inconceivable of the man who had only a few years earlier waged heated battles against the Air Force's purported policy of censoring UFO facts. A battle scarred veteran he was, but it seemed that he no longer was capable of partaking in the actions in which he indulged so vigorously after he was catapulted to national fame as the courageous aviation writer who publicly expressed his belief that UFOs were real, material objects fashioned by an advanced technology. His once fiery oratory had become a tedious and wearisome melange of tired platitudes.

But even though Major Keyhoe no longer was the guiding light of the saucer movement; even though he was now an elder statesman with only his waning prestige to fall back on, my respect and admiration of this great pioneer in UFO investigation has not diminished.

The warm, pleasant sun that loomed in the sky on that beautiful spring day back on April 12 lulled us into a sense of complacency. We became increasingly optimistic at the outcome of our journey as we reflected upon our successful visit with Major Keyhoe on the previous day. We entered NICAP's office on the third floor of the old yet luxurious office building at Connecticut Avenue and Dupont Circle.

Hall was in the front office busily involved with answering the remnants of the deluge of mail that had poured in because of Major Keyhoe's article in the January, 1965 issue of "True." He looked up at us and remarked that we had arrived earlier than he had expected. Next, he shifted his gaze to me. There was not a single trace of emotion in his voice, as he demanded my immediate departure.

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I was instantly startled. Even though Hall knew I was associated with a magazine that had staunchly opposed NICAP policies with which it disagreed, it was inconceivable that he did not recognize the fact that I was on record as a supporter of NICAP for a number of years. My new position had not resulted in any noticeable change in Major Keyhoe's behavior. Why did it affect Hall so?

There was no doubt that Hall was seething with anger. His voice did not betray his true feelings, but they were obvious when I noted his shaking finger which was pointed at me. Now I was in a spot. If I demanded the fulfillment of my inalienable rights as a NICAP member to inspect the office and the files whenever I wished, I might seriously endanger the success of my companions/ mission. Thus, I chose to remain silent, and let the other members of the delegation choose the proper course of action.

Allen Greenfield soon entered into a brief explanation of the fact that we had come in the form of a delegation. Protocol dictated that the group must behave as one. If a single member of the party was asked to depart, in effect, all of the members of the party were so asked. Hall accepted the validity of this form of reasoning, and said that we might as well all leave. As we walked out the door, Greenfield remarked that he would now never have the opportunity to deliver a prepared statement about the Congress, which attempted to respond to many of Hall's accusations.

Martin Salkind was the first to speak after we left the office building en route to our hotel. He said that he was shocked at Hall's "despicable treatment" of paid-up NICAP members. If he ever entertained thoughts of becoming a NICAP member, it seemed obvious he would never again consider such an idea.

Greenfield and Hilberg both agreed to contact Ray Palmer, venerable Editor of "Flying Saucers" and sharply critical of NICAP for a number of years; and tell him about our experience. After speaking with Palmer over the phone, Greenfield prepared an affidavit which reported, in comparatively conservative tones, the key points of our ill-fated visit to the NICAP office. The threat of its publication and more concerted action convinced Hall of the wisdom of mollifying the delegation, and supporting the Congress. An equivocal endorsement appeared in the next issue of "The UFO Investigator."

NICAP has through the years embarked on several very promising ventures which have failed miserably. One such effort was the creation of a network of affiliates, which were intended as a new and functional arm of the ailing national group, fashioned in an endeavor to instill new and desperately needed vitality in the organization.

Affiliates were chartered, and commenced operations in the area of investigation and public relations. Regretfully, the best example of the results of this interesting project was the case of the New York City affiliate.

After an auspicious start, the meetings gradually degenerated into a mass of ineptly conceived and poorly conducted revival meetings. The small and apathetic membership was not aroused. Eventually, the meetings decreased in frequency, and were finally suspended. The group has not been active since the early part of 1964. No efforts at revitalization have been offered, nor are they expected.

Similar if less pronounced examples of such failures have been observed throughout those parts of the country which have affiliates. NICAP should recognize this fact, however embarrassing it might be, and abandon the affiliates to the inevitable fate to which they are inexorably heading.

The subcommittees, created purely as an investigative arm of NICAP, present the same dismal picture, albeit some groups have risen above the abyss of mediocrity and have accomplished something in the area of flying saucer research.

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But by far the most amazing and utterly ludicrous aspect of NICAP's operations is what they laughingly call their "UFO investigation." Major Keyhoe and Richard Hall formed their conclusions that UFOs were directed by intelligent extraterrestrial beings, soon after becoming involved with the flying saucer movement. Not a single NICAP activity is intended to test the accuracy of this still unproven hypothesis. Instead of conducting conscientious and impartial research to confirm or refute their working hypothesis, or finding a better one, if it exists, NICAP devotes much of the space in its newsletter to a discussion of the significance of what they believe to be an impending visit by the space people. So, even in the most fundamental aspect of running a UFO organization--the research itself--NICAP has not succeeded.

NICAP in its present condition is simply the decaying remnants of an organization that has never realized its full potential due to misguided principles. Despite the promise of a new and concerted effort to bring relief to the stagnant shores of Ufology, NICAP has not fulfilled its goals, nor does the prospect of doing so linger within the foreseeable future. I honestly believe that the time has come for a drastic overhaul of the basically sound machinery of NICAP, to get it on the right track once again. But to accomplish such a monumental task is certainly beyond the capabilities of one man, one lone, inconspicuous voice in the wilderness.

If you, the reader, think as one with me, it is imperative that you join with me in voicing your protest of NICAP's monolithic policies, which threaten to forever halt progress towards the advancement of UFO research.

I propose a systematic study of all aspects of NICAP's operations to determine the areas where improvement is required, aside from those I have already discussed in the course of this article. The need for a large national group with proper facilities for UFO investigation is desperate. NICAP can fill that need, if its leadership is made aware of its shortcomings, and of the means of reparation. They can change, because I think the vast majority of you concur with my views, and will support me.

But if NICAP chooses to remain oblivious to this growing movement, callous to the wishes of the membership, and continues to grind the same old suicidal axe year after year, then I must in all good conscience suggest to them that they stop wasting their membership's money, and cease operations now!

It could be the best thing they've ever done for Ufology.