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### UFOSEARCH #14: UFO History Part V

From: "Val Germann" <vhg@socket.net>  
Date: Fri, 20 Feb 1998 12:56:52 -0600  
Fwd Date: Fri, 20 Feb 1998 15:58:02 -0500  
Subject: UFOSEARCH #14: UFO History Part V

UFOSEARCH #14 - UFO History; Part V

Val Germann  
Columbia, Missouri

\*\* The Year of McDonald - 1968 \*\*

In January of 1968, just over three decades ago, Donald Keyhoe showed James McDonald the Low Memorandum, a document that had been leaked to Keyhoe by a disgruntled staffer of the so-called Condon Committee, which had been set up in the middle of 1966, following the "swamp gas" debacle in Michigan.

The memorandum from Low, who was the project director, clearly stated that the purpose of the committee was to maintain the appearance of objectivity while whitewashing UFOs. McDonald was incensed by the memorandum, in part because he had been carrying water for Condon in some circles, advising restraint until the committee report was issued, an event scheduled for early in 1969.

McDonald immediately launched a personal and professional attack on the Condon group, writing and making public a letter excoriating them all. It seemed that the recommendations of the Robertson Committee, dating from way back in 1953, were still in force. The UFO was to be debunked, using the coarsest of methodologies. As a result of McDonald's efforts Condon fired two staffers, one of whom had actually given the offending document to Keyhoe, and another staff member resigned. The credibility of the Condon group should have been destroyed but it is never a sin to carry out the policy of higher-ups. The debunking, government-funded committee sailed on, unperturbed after the firings and resignations took place.

In the end, the report was issued and given the imprimatur of the National Academy of Sciences, an ultra-conservative group dominated by men from "the (Atomic) bomb group," Condon being one of that bunch. Once again, "the government" had bashed the UFO good, along with anyone, anywhere, attempting to get at the truth.

But, back to early 1968. Hard on the heels of the blow-up over McDonald and the leaked memorandum was an article that appeared in April in 'Look' magazine. The author was John Fuller and in great detail he laid bare the inner workings of the Condon Committee, predicting exactly what their report would say. But this didn't stay in the news long, not after the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis. Indeed, the American political scene was soon to explode into banana republic-type violence, even as McDonald and others prepared to testify before Congress, in hopes of a once-and-for-all breaking of the secrecy

surrounding the UFO.

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