

JUST

CAUSE

Publisher:
Lawrence Fawcett

Editor:
Barry Greenwood



Address: P.O.Box 218
Coventry, Conn. 06238

Subscription:
4 issues-\$10 (\$15 foreign)

NUMBER 18

NEW SERIES

December 1988

(Copyright 1988)

EDITORIAL

We are making a change in format to improve our output. From this issue Just Cause will be eight pages in length. We are scheduling CAUS Bulletin irregularly as an interim speed report for important items. In this way articles will be consistently under one banner (the bibliographers amongst our readers will appreciate this). CB will generally reproduce documents or other non-typed things. At times we have expanded Just Cause for large reports and will continue to do this when necessary. This is actually a slight increase in reading for our subscribers since we will be typing seven full pages and one title page instead of six full and two titles.

THE WHITE HOUSE AND ET'S - A STRANGE CURIOSITY

There has been much speculation over the years as to government funding of not only UFO research but the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, or SETI. We have documented what we know of their UFO involvement in CLEAR INTENT and many others have written of the SETI programs. A large number of people know of NASA's attempts to construct receivers which could scan thousands of radio frequencies for signs of ETI, efforts which have met with resistance by budget watchers concerned with spending money on research which may produce no results. Yet, despite the nay-sayers, there seems to be a consistent push by the Reagan administration towards developing a knowledge of, and policy about, potential extraterrestrial contacts with us. It is a strange curiosity, given the conservative nature of the Reagan White House.

First signs of this came in the form of subtle comments made by the president in several speeches. We had discussed one event in our December 1987 Just Cause, relating to a 1985 speech at Fallston High School in Maryland. Another came on May 4th this year during a question and answer session at the National Strategy Forum in Chicago (Boston Herald, 5/5/88). The president made essentially the same remarks as in the Maryland speech, focusing on our reaction to an alien "invasion."

These offbeat references to space aliens by the President of the United States were curious, but maybe not surprisingly so given the great media attention to the Reagans' strong interest in astrology earlier this year. The paranormal does seem to be on the mind of Pres-

ident Reagan!

Occasional news stories may have contributed to White House interest in ETs. For example, a November 12, 1987, news report said that astronomers Ben Zuckerman and Eric Becklin had discovered a "sub-stellar, somewhat Jupiter-like brown dwarf" in orbit around the star Gliese 29-38, a brown dwarf being a body in a stage of development somewhere between a star and a planet.

The existence of brown dwarf stars is controversial because none have been confirmed conclusively. The astronomers therefore offered an alternative explanation for their observations, in case the brown dwarf idea failed. They said at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in California that the object might be evidence of huge constructions in space, built by a form of intelligent life! The infrared radiation detected, according to Zuckerman, could be equal to that emitted by giant solar panels created by advanced creatures to harness the power of their sun (Boston Globe, 11/12/87). The astronomers used NASA's 3-meter Infrared Telescope Facility in Hawaii to do their research.

Shortly after other pro-SETI stories appeared in the press, the president sent his 1989 budget to Congress in February 1988, including a proposal to fund a NASA search for ETs totaling \$80 million (New Zealand Herald, 2/20/88).

The June 1988 issue of Final Frontier magazine contained a SETI article titled, "Is Anybody Listening?" by Linda Billings. It is highly recommended as a good summary of NASA's SETI pursuit. However, one reference aroused our interest. Near the end of the article we see this:

"In August 1987, White House Office of Management and Budget Director James Miller asked for a briefing on SETI and UFOs, out of personal curiosity. NASA sent over the experts fast. The SETI people will probably never find out whether these meetings had anything to do with their budget success this year. But if Congress doesn't muck things up, the program will be off to a good start this fall."

To us it was odd that UFOs should be included in a briefing like this because of the apparent decisive dismissal of the topic by the government long ago. We decided to pursue this to see where it led.

CAUS filed an FOIA request with the OMB, requesting copies of all information on "SETI and UFOs" relating to the August 1987 meetings. We received a reply, dated October 17, 1988, from OMB's Assistant Director for Administration, Darrell Johnson (see this issue), with a 19-page release plus several color brochures on SETI. The meeting information indicated that a single session took place on August 12th and appeared to be done in a slide-show format with the released documents seemingly produced from slides (see sample this issue).

What we find very revealing is that there was no mention of the UFO discussions in the FOIA release, but there was documentation withheld under the FOIA (b)(5) exemption (see OMB 10/17 letter for explanation). It's interesting to note that the processes used toward the historic decision to search for evidence of alien intelligence have been declared not in the public interest by OMB! Why? Are the documents UFO-related? If not, then surely they can't be serious in stating that the decision-making in going ahead with SETI is not in the public interest. Very curious indeed!

A 10/14/88 story in the Quincy (Ma.) Patriot-Ledger led with, "Alien Signals Policy Set by Scientists." A meeting of space experts

for the International Astronomical Congress in Bangalore, India, resulted in a nine-point draft international agreement regulating the way in which the first reception of alien radio signals would be verified and released to the public.

One of the participants, and co-author of the draft, was Peter Boyce, Director of the Department of State's Office of Advanced Technology. He said that the international pact tries to insure that the reporting and exchange of this information is not subject to political pressure. Initially, every effort would be made to verify the signals as coming from an extraterrestrial intelligence. The nations of the world would be consulted through the United Nations, then, when everything was checked and double-checked, the information would become public in a major announcement.

It is ironic that while we are telling the international community that we want SETI removed from political pressure, we are telling Americans that they have no right to study and understand such materials, especially since it is our money being used to fund the program!

There have been a number of instances in the past when strange signals have been detected by astronomers; signals for which a broadcasting alien civilization might be an explanation. The problem is that the signals have not repeated themselves so that an exotic origin can't be confirmed. It is sobering to think that at any moment proof of alien intelligence may be passing through our bodies as, say, AM radio exists all around us but can't be heard without a receiver tuned in at the right time.

Then again, perhaps the proof has been recorded by a super-secret intelligence agency, like the National Security Agency, with billions of dollars worth of receiving equipment at its disposal. There have been rumors to this effect as we've reported in CLEAR INTENT. And, of course, such detection would occur under the highest security.

Finally, another recent news report may point quite close to the core of the Reagan administration's interest in alien intelligence. According to a new book, LANDSLIDE - THE UNMAKING OF THE PRESIDENT, then-Governor Reagan had a UFO sighting in 1974. Described as a zig-zagging, fast-moving light, the sighting impressed Reagan, though he never made it a public issue.

What does this all mean? We can suggest that the burst of White House attention to the search for extraterrestrials might have its roots in President Reagan's curiosity in the paranormal. Early in the administration's first term funding any such research such as NASA's SETI program was out of the question. Indeed, at one point the administration was prepared to shut off Voyager 2 as it was cruising the solar system gathering historic data about the outer planets. A major change of attitude took place between then and now. Explanatory briefings of White House officials by scientists certainly helped but was there more? Did an event occur, a signal detection, or whatever, that suddenly led to a SETI-sympathetic president?

Something else must be said. The string of events described here would seem to argue against an administration knowledgeable of crashed discs in the hands of the government for forty years, or an MJ-12-type group. An \$80 million budget proposal for a signal search would appear to be a monstrous waste if we already have hard proof of aliens in the form of spacecraft, or as in some of the MJ-12 rumors - live aliens! Why have NASA briefed the OMB on "SETI and UFOs" if the president was already briefed with an MJ-12 briefing paper, which would be far more specific and pertinent to the issue of alien intelligence than any relatively bland SETI/UFO proposal? Why does the president draw attention to "alien" issues so frivolously in his speeches if crashed discs

are one of the most protected secrets in America?

In fact, these events have all the earmarks of an administration groping for knowledge and confirmation of alien intelligence (and UFOs?) through NASA's research; an administration searching for but not having answers to these controversial subjects.

(The book LANDSLIDE - THE UNMAKING OF THE PRESIDENT is by Jane Mayer and Doyle McManus. The UFO story is mentioned on pages 34 and 402.)

MJ-12 UPDATE

We have several items to discuss. First, proponents of MJ-12 have presented statements by Dr. Roger Wescott, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Linguistics program at Drew University, to the effect that, "... there is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications (Hillenkoetter's, sent to Dr. Wescott for a language style comparison. Ed.) as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself." (Wescott letter dated April 7, 1988) The MJ-12 Briefing Paper of Nov. 18, 1952, is the object of comment here. This seemingly amounts to a ringing endorsement of Hillenkoetter's authorship of the Briefing Paper and was regarded as such by much of the UFO press (see MUFON Journal, July 1988 for example).

This editor began to worry a bit about Dr. Wescott's conclusions after seeing an earlier letter, dated April 3, in which he made the following statement:

"In ambiguous situations like this, I tend to follow an equivalent of the legal principle 'innocent till proven guilty.' My analog is 'authentic till proven fraudulent.'"

This is quite the opposite of accepted scientific principles in which a claim, especially an extraordinary one, must be proven authentic to gain credible status. Otherwise, every bizarre claim from the Hollow Earth to channeled space messages through one's pet Airedale would, according to Dr. Wescott's remark, be considered true until proven false. Amazing! This type of thinking may be good enough for the legal profession in matters of criminal law, but it cannot work in science, or in UFO investigation.

Dr. Wescott has also been involved with groups studying strange phenomena, having lectured before the International Fortean Organization and being listed as an advisor to the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. He is also prominently mentioned in Brad and Francie Steiger's book THE STAR PEOPLE (1981), speculating on other dimensions, time altering; etc. In other words his involvement in the paranormal is well-established.

What is most important though is a letter in the July/August 1988, CUFOS International UFO Reporter in which Dr. Wescott clarifies his much-quoted "endorsement" of the Briefing Paper (extracted):

"First, it's clear that I've stepped into a hornet's nest of controversy. Since I have no strong conviction favoring either rather polarized position in the matter, I may have been a bit rash to become involved, even as a somewhat detached consultant, in what amounts to an adversary procedure. On behalf of those who support the authenticity of the memo, I wrote that I thought it's fraudulence unproved. On behalf of it's critics, I could equally well have maintained that it's authenticity is unproved. Whatever the probabilities of the issue,

inconclusiveness seems to me to be of it's essence."

So, in reality, there is no endorsement by Dr. Wescott. We have never seen a detailed study of his analysis of the Hillenkoetter papers, apparently there is none. Neither have we seen widespread reporting of the IUR/Wescott letter in journals previously treating the earlier comments as a major revelation. It's to CUFOS' credit to set the record straight, and unfortunate that others wished to ignore it.

UFO COVER UP - LIVE!

We have seen the 2-hour UFO Cover Up - Live! TV show aired in October. About 50% was of interest as straight background on UFO history. Former Project Blue Book spokesman William Coleman's UFO story was notable, as well as statements by several science experts near the end of the show.

The rest was dismal. The anticipated major impact of the show on the public never materialized and there was virtually no commentary either way about the show in the media after the fact.

Most dismal was the very-hyped presentations of "Falcon" and "Condor," two sources for William Moore's MJ-12 information. The way that both were blacked out and voice-altered did nothing to convince viewers that they were credible sources. In fact, we only have the word of the claim's promoters that they are! Further, the discussion of alien biology, social activity, likes and dislikes; etc., are not at all checkable and the inclusion of such "facts" as the aliens' fondness for strawberry ice cream was an amazingly inept move as it made a laughing stock of the entire segment. This editor heard jokes about it for days afterwards.

The only thing on the "Falcon" segments about which we came away convinced was that he was Richard Doty, the notorious former AFOSI Special Agent who is a major source for the MJ-12 promotion. Both CAUS Director Peter Gersten and Linda Howe, who have met Doty, have told CAUS that they were completely convinced, based on wording and mannerisms, that "Falcon" was Doty.

As an aside, while on vacation in Arizona a few weeks after the show aired, this editor received a phone solicitation from the Fund for UFO Research for donations to fund Stanton Friedman's MJ-12 explorations, something which seemed clearly designed to capitalize on the TV show. A donation of \$500 was suggested in recent solicitations!

Almost rendered speechless from pure astonishment, and after picking myself off the floor, I asked if the caller was aware of my position on MJ-12. I was told that "others" said that I might not want to donate but the attempt was made anyway. The solicitation was politely declined after explaining that CAUS has spent a great deal of time and money itself on MJ-12 and had arrived at an opposite conclusion from MJ-12's supporters.

Since then, other CAUS subscribers have been approached. One said when he declined to donate he was asked if he was a CAUS member!

For the record, CAUS members are under no direction in how to respond to such solicitations and may do what they wish. I report what I believe to be a consensus of the CAUS administration and whatever positions we take are not binding on everyone.

The Fund is seeking \$16,000 for the MJ-12 pot. We wish them luck in their quest.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 17, 1988

Mr. Barry J. Greenwood
6 W. Hancock Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

This responds to your request under the Freedom of Information Act for briefing materials on the Microwave Observing Project (formerly known as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) presented to Director James Miller by Dr. Stephan Fogleman of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

We have identified documents within OMB which may be responsive to your request. We have determined that certain of these materials may be released to you under the provisions of the Act. They are enclosed. We have determined, however, that the remaining documents which may be responsive to your request are exempt from mandatory disclosure as a result of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5). The material consists of intra-agency advisory information the disclosure of which would inhibit the frank and candid expression of views necessary to effective governmental processes. We have determined that disclosure of this information would not be in the public interest and decline to release it.

Pursuant to OMB regulations, a fee for the search and reproduction of documents is assessed for each FOIA request. The total fee due is \$33.42. Remittance shall be made payable to the Treasury of the United States and mailed or delivered to the Assistant Director for Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell A. Johnson".

Darrell A. Johnson
Assistant Director for
Administration

Enclosures

GOAL OF SETI

**TO SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF
EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENT LIFE**

HOW?

**BY USING EXISTING LARGE RADIOTELESCOPES TO SEARCH
FOR MICROWAVE RADIO SIGNALS PRODUCED
BY THEIR TECHNOLOGY**

WHAT WILL SETI ACCOMPLISH?

IF AN ETI SIGNAL IS FOUND

- **OUTSTANDING DISCOVERY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND**

IF NO SIGNAL IS FOUND

- **A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF A CLEARLY DEFINED AND BOUNDED VOLUME OF SEARCH SPACE WILL BE COMPLETE**
- **UNDERSTANDING OF IMPACT OF RFI ON EARTH-BASED SETI**
- **BENEFITS TO OTHERS**