

12 March 1967

Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler
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Not sent

My dear Liebeler,

If I am not misinformed, you have taken to denigrating my criticism of the Warren Report on the irrelevant and specious ground that I "believe in flying saucers." I am not aware that I have communicated to you or to your well-known informants my views on unidentified flying objects (UFOs). However, Representative Gerald Ford has taken a public stand on this phenomenon which indicates that he regards it as a serious subject for investigation--"a full Congressional investigation," as he demanded on March 25, 1966 on CBS television. Presumably you do not suggest that Mr. Ford thereby is disqualified for service on such bodies as the Warren Commission, or that the Warren Report is stigmatized by virtue of Mr. Ford's position on UFOs?

In the interests of accuracy on the phenomenon of UFOs, you may wish to inform yourself further on the subject by reading the articles by Professor J. Allen Hynek, the astrophysicist and Air Force consultant, in Science October 1966 and in The Saturday Evening Post December 17, 1966. I had the privilege of a number of visits from Dr. Hynek during the last six or seven years and I am gratified that he has now expressed publicly his conviction that the subject is a serious one, meriting scientific inquiry and not cheap wise-cracks.

My own interest in the question of UFOs derives mainly from concern about the Government's policy of misinformation, issuing of "explanations" of sightings ("marsh gas" etc.) so grossly ridiculous as to convince only a village idiot, impeaching the character of reputable witnesses (airline pilots, civic officials, and ordinary citizens)--in short, a policy of deceit and contempt for the rights and the intelligence of the public. You may note the close parallel here with other Government pronouncements.

Be that as it may, I am struck by your resort to my alleged views on "flying saucers" as a means by which to try to discredit my criticism of the Warren Report, since by its sheer irrelevance and malice it suggests that you have found no grounds for refuting my assertions about the Report. It is always gratifying to have corroboration of the accuracy of one's work. It does surprise me, I will admit, that with the evidence published in black-and-white of your colleague Mr. Jenner's liberties with facts (The Minority of One, March 1967), you nevertheless had the courage to charge that any critic of the Warren Report lacked credibility.

I look forward with interest to news of your further pronouncements, which no doubt will also interest greatly Representative Ford and the many other Congressmen, scientists, and commentators on public affairs who have the misfortune of not sharing your views on "flying saucers" and who may not appreciate ridicule by implication. I am sending copies of this letter to a number of interested parties, too numerous to list.

Yours sincerely,