

(credit Winifred Thompson)

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President Ford and Rockefeller Rally Behind UFO Investigation;
Both Admit They Do Exist

President Gerald Ford and Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller are expected to lift the veil of official secrecy surrounding government information on unidentified flying objects and demand major new investigations into the UFO phenomena. Both men are firmly on record as believing in the existence of UFOs and in the need for the federal government to level with the public on the subject.

The two highest executives in this country have maintained their positions for years. Their influence toward revealing government knowledge about UFOs is already being felt. The Defence Department has already started baring its files and photos about UFOs.

Rockefeller said flatly that the many reported UFO sightings by reputable people should "be given all reasonable credence". "Insofar as keeping the American people properly informed on this or any matter of national concern, it is vital to our democratic processes that the general public be promptly and completely informed," the Vice President-designate said. Rockefeller made his statements while governor of New York before his recent nomination as Vice President.

President Ford's position is similar. In an interview with Robert D. Barry, former New York state civil defence official and now director of the 20th Century UFO Research Bureau, Ford showed "a very deep concern" over the UFO problem. Barry, a veteran UFO researcher who has interviewed many public officials on the subject, told Tattler Ford told him in a tape-recorded interview that he wants the government to conduct a new, very serious scientific study of unidentified flying objects. "Ford was very put out with the Condon Report (a governmental report which whitewashed the UFO subject)," said Barry.

Ford has for some time expressed interest in the UFO phenomena. "The President feels the government should not have shut down its UFO investigations," the spokesman said.

The revelation that the President and Vice President of the United States are concerned with the UFO phenomena comes only a few months after national pollsters found that more than half of the American people believe the UFOs exist and are coming from other planets to visit us. Indeed, polls showed that more than 10 million Americans claim to have seen UFOs.

their position of giving the public the full truth about UFOs. Sen. Barry Goldwater, considered by many the titular head of the Republican Party and its nominee for President in 1964, believes strongly that UFOs exist and should be officially investigated. Goldwater backed up his position that Earth is being visited by people from other planets by consenting to serve on the board of directors of NICAP.

Other members of Congress take strong positions that reported UFO sightings, rather than being scoffed at as they have been in the past, should be pursued vigorously by governmental agencies. Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., said: "I, too, am interested in these aerial phenomena. Some people tend to discount UFOs, but I feel that any such unknown objects bear investigation." Sen. Vance Hartke, another Indiana Democrat, said "a full explanation of the 'flying saucers' seems due..."

Sen. J. Glenn Beall, R-Md.; said as far back as 1959: "There are those who dismiss the idea of flying saucers from other planets as preposterous. Isn't it stupid - and conceited - for us human beings to think no one else in the universe is as intelligent as we are?"

UFOs have been sighted all over the United States and the world since World War II. The Air Force signed a \$500,000 contract with the University of Colorado to make a scientific investigation on unidentified flying objects. Five years ago, the committee, headed by the late Dr. Edward U. Condon, issued a report whitewashing the UFOs from the sky. But the report didn't slow down the public sightings of UFOs. A wave of sightings - the more dramatic ones being published in Tattler - mushroomed throughout the nation in late 1973 and during the first few months of this year.

L.J. Lorenzen, executive director of the Tucson-based Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, told Tattler recently that the Department of Defence has decided to acknowledge that flying saucers from other planets do exist. "A programme has been undertaken that will, over the next few months, make it obvious that the government has reversed its position," said Lorenzen.

The government has previously consistently denied the existence of UFOs. Some factors Lorenzen took into account in forming his conclusions include the government's cooperation with film companies producing documentaries on UFOs - a reversal of official position. Lorenzen also noted that "international political competition" is another factor - fear by the U.S. that another country might upstage America by acknowledging that UFOs exist.

The U.S. position on UFOs will likely soon be thrust into the open now that the country's top leaders are among those who haven't hesitated to make their beliefs known."

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