

'There is Pay Dirt in a UFO Study—But Quicksand, Too'

—Dr. J. Allen Hynek

By David Daniels

WHEN THE long-awaited Condon Report on Unidentified Flying Objects was issued early this year, it was accompanied by a vitriolic rebuttal. For on that same day Dr. David R. Saunders published his own version of what went on behind the

scenes at the University of Colorado, where the project was headquartered under the Directorship of Dr. Edward U. Condon. The Saunders "exposé" is titled "UFOs? YES" Its subtitle was "Where The Condon Committee Went Wrong/The Inside Story By An Ex-Member Of The Official Study Group."

Dr. Saunders is a professor of psychology at the University of Colorado and assistant director of its Department of Testing and Counseling. He holds a Ph.D. (Illinois) in psychology. Yet he was fired from the Project by Dr. Condon for "incompetence" about a year before the scientific UFO study was completed.

Two opposing points of view—one a strong defense of the Colorado group's findings, the other a searing blast at its methods, techniques and findings

THE CONDON REPORT:

A WHITEWASH?

'Further Extensive Study Cannot Be Justified'

—Dr. Edward U. Condon

By Lloyd Mallan

DURING the first week of October 1966, the U.S. Air Force announced that one of the nation's most eminent physicists had agreed to become Scientific Director of a project to evaluate the existence or non-existence of Flying Saucers. The con-

tract was signed by the University of Colorado, where Dr. Edward Uhler Condon, the physicist, is Professor of Physics and Astrophysics as well as being a Fellow of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics. Two years plus three months and \$525,905.00 later, he released his Final Report of a "Scientific Study of Uni-

identified Flying Objects." The Report, released through the August National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of Defense, contained a massive 1,485 pages.

Up to the time of its public release, the Report's contents and findings were kept tightly secret. The reason for this was that Dr. Condon wanted

The apparent reason for Saunders' discharge, which he describes at length in his book, was that he and Dr. Norman E. Levine, an electrical engineer (also fired) were so appalled by a memo they had discovered in the project files that they made copies of it and gave these to individuals who, although on an unofficial basis, were seriously interested in the scientific aspects of UFO research. One of these persons, a physicist, showed a copy of the memo

to John Fuller of *The Saturday Review*, who had published two highly successful books about Flying Saucers. The result was an article in *Look Magazine* by Fuller, called "Flying Saucer Fiasco."

The article infuriated Dr. Condon and Robert J. Low, Coordinator of the official UFO project. It also created quite a stir in Congress because it made no bones about the fact that Mr. Fuller felt strongly that the American taxpayer's money was

being wasted on the University of Colorado UFO study.

Robert Low was the author of the now-famous memo. Written before the project got started, it was to present the pro and con arguments on whether or not the University of Colorado should accept an offer from the U.S. Air Force to finance a scientific study on UFOs—when UFO's were considered by a vast majority of scientists to be a kooky, nonscientific

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The Controversial Memo

"The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing—the psychology and sociology of persons and groups who report seeing UFO's. If the emphasis were put here, rather than on examination of the old question of the physical reality of the saucer, I think the scientific community would quickly get the message."

Above, Robert Rinker, a field technician at the mountain laboratory weather station on Chalk Mountain near Climax, Colo., discovered this UFO on his

negative after he shot a roll of film in the area and processed it months later. Rinker said, "I haven't said it's a saucer yet."

the National Academy first to approve the scientific methodology used in the UFO study. He felt, I am told, that Academy approval was necessary if the Report were to be taken seriously by the scientific community and Government. The Academy appointed a special Review Panel of 11 members, including its chairman, Dr. Gerald M. Clemance of Yale University. Other universities represented on the Panel by one or more members were the University of

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