

29 July 1968

Memo to: Dean Manning
From: E. U. Condon
Subject: Book by Saunders

In earlier memoranda I told of the rumor from New York that Saunders, et al, are writing a book which is to be a major attack on the University's UFO project.

You know that before he was discharged Saunders admitted being a party to the passing of a copy of the Low memo to James McDonald with intent to harm this investigation. The date was December 12, 1967 so his salary was charged to the project for about two months before his discharge, during which time he was actively working against the interests of the University. According to Major Donald Keyhoe (ret.) Saunders also gave him a copy of the Low memo about the same time and the two of them began to plot how to use it in the most harmful way.

On May 31, I wrote to Stuart Cook and asked him, in his capacity as a principal investigator of the UFO project to ask Saunders (a) to finish a report on orthoteny which he had left in rough form, and (b) to return to the project files any and all copies of project materials belonging to the University and/or the Air Force and to promise not to use them in any publications. After a long delay Cook finally got a refusal to cooperate from him as stated in the accompanying memo from Cook to me. Saunders says he will not deal with Cook on this matter. As I can not deal with Saunders, the question arises: Will you undertake to get his cooperation or will the University let him get away with non-cooperation?

We do not literally know that he has taken additional materials. The surmise that he may have done so is based on (a) the fact that he did admit to complicity in transmitting the stolen Low memo, (b) the evidence from the Look article that another memo of Low's got into Fuller's hands (c) the memo of April 30, in which I told you of Harkins' offer to a Denver radio station to sell them more material including documents than were going to appear in the Look article. This offer indicates Harkins' improper possession of additional things taken from the Colorado UFO project files. This does not necessarily involve Saunders, as Harkins may have obtained documents from Low's unfaithful secretary, Mary Lou Armstrong.

Now comes the article in Science for July 26, pp. 339-342. It says "And still more controversy lies ahead, for one of the ousted scientists is preparing a popularized dissenting report which is scheduled to be published at the time the Condon group's final report is made public." Later in this article all these people are linked together as having helped Fuller write the Look article:

"The article was written by John G. Fuller, the author of several popular books and articles on flying saucers, with the active assistance of Saunders, Levine, their attorney, McDonald, Mrs. Armstrong and R. Roger Harkins, a former reporter for the Boulder (Colo.) Daily Camera."

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Therefore Harkins' offer to sell more documents to a local radio station is now linked to evidence of close association of Saunders and Mrs. Armstrong with Harkins in attacking the University.

The Science article also says "Meanwhile, Saunders and Harkins are preparing a book to be published by New American Library shortly after the Condon group's findings and recommendations are made public. The book will describe the project's administrative problems and will present conclusions that the authors expect will differ from those of the Condon report."

All these things put together make it appear to me, conclusively, that additional materials have been stolen and will be used to spice up the attack on the University which this tenured professor and his associates are preparing. We first heard the rumor of the Saunders book from Edward Chase, editorial vice-president of the New American Library, who is among those who would like to publish our report. It is also interesting that New American Library is the publisher of Dan Greenberg's "The Politics of Pure Science." Dan Greenberg is the news editor of Science so we can easily see here that Greenberg is using Science to run advance publicity for Saunders' book.

I do not think that they should be allowed to get away with publication of stolen materials. I want to be on record as having kept the administration posted on what Saunders is doing in this area and as having advised that advance corrective action be taken.



E. U. Condon

EUC:kes

cc - President Smiley

Encl. - Cook memo