

2007 03 24 Saturday Leslie Kean New Phoenix Lights Witness

AB: “All right , we’ve got a first hour guest coming up in a moment and it all relates to the story from Arizona. Boy, is this a big story! Big, Big Story!

Former Governor Fife Symington says now that those strange lights that appeared over Phoenix a decade ago were from another world! And that he had a close encounter with an alien craft on March 13th, 1997. (AB smirks). That quite a statement ...”

He said: ‘I’m a pilot, and I know just about every machine that flies. It was bigger than anything I’ve ever seen. It remains a great mystery. Other people saw it, responsible people,’ said Symington. ‘I don’t know why people would ridicule it ...?’ said Symington (AB smirks) after his ridicule.

Symington, who was in his second term as governor of Arizona during the Phoenix Lights incident recently told a UFO investigator making a documentary that he’d kept quiet about his personal close encounter – now listen very closely here – because he didn’t want to panic the populace! (?)

He repeated his story Thursday on CNN. I’m sure many of you saw it. Saying the craft he saw was: ‘Enormous! It just felt *other-worldly*.’ The Governor didn’t let on at the time, instead poking fun at the whole thing – otherwise known as ridicule.

He hosted a press conference a few months after the mass sightings to announce that his Department of Public Safety had arrested the culprit responsible – a very tall, bug-eyed creature brought before the media in handcuffs and unmasked the creature to reveal his Chief of Staff – Jay Heiler, who at six-foot-four (6’ 4”) made an imposing, somewhat comical, space alien. Symington said the producer of the film *Out of the Blue*, James Fox, originally sought him out to talk about why he’d spoofed the sightings, but then asked if he’d seen the lights? He said: ‘Yeah, I got a good look.’

Heiler said Thursday he isn’t surprised Symington believes in UFOs. Said his boss was a Trekkie, who enjoyed discussing space travel. Heiler said Symington was convinced that Earthlings would be traveling to distant solar systems at speeds exceeding the speed of light in our lifetimes (!)

Heiler said he remained the earthbound skeptic in those talks. Symington never mentioned his personal observation of the Phoenix Lights, but always [was] interested in getting to the bottom of it, Heiler said. The DPS [Department of Public Safety] was at a kind of loss as to how to investigate an alien visit.

Now, this is one hell of a big story – Leslie Kean broke it! In a moment, Leslie Kean!

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AB: “Kean is an investigative journalist, whose articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines around the world. She is also, by the way, a contributing producer for an investigative news program on KPFA radio, a Pacifica station, and the co-author of *Burma’s Revolution of the Spirit: The Struggle for Democratic Freedom and Dignity*. In a moment, Leslie Kean.”

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AB: “All right, just as I bring Leslie on, I would like to make note of one I think critically important line in the story: He [Symington] says that he kept quiet about the whole thing because ‘he didn’t want to panic the populace.’ Now I’ve had on people and people and people and people and PEOPLE and people commenting about UFOs, and to the person they all say: ‘Oh! Oh no! If we found out something about a UFO, if we had a sighting – Ohhh, believe me! The public would know about it, just like that!’ (AB snaps his fingers) ... What a load!

Leslie, welcome to the program!”

LESLIE KEAN

LK: “Thanks, Art! It’s great to be here!”

AB: “Good to have you! So you ... you, ah, broke this story ... ?”

LK: “I did. I was, uh, very pleased, you know, as a journalist to – as you mentioned it’s a big story and I was certainly able to recognize that.”

AB: “It’s a *monster story*, Leslie, but of course, it would have been a lot bigger ten (10) years ago.”

LK: “Well, that’s true. You know, I think what’s important now is to focus on the fact that this man has come forward. It took a lot of courage to do that and ... you know, we can really benefit from him being part of all this now. And he’s really committed to it! He cares !!!

So I don’t want to focus so much on the fact that he didn’t do it before, although I know a lot of witnesses have strong feelings about it. But I’m just trying to get this out as a very positive development.”

AB: “Well, it is a positive development, but it’s inescapable, Leslie, um, after all, ah, you know, we’ve had so many UFO stories ... Um, some of them better than others.

This was one of the best, Leslie – One of the best! I was on the air the night this occurred, and took a gazillion phone calls.

And you know, it would have been so big ... if the Governor had come out and said he saw it, it would have been such a monster of a story! Now, I understood what he said about ‘because he didn’t want to panic the populace,’ but I mean – Was the populace honestly going to get any more panicked in your opinion than it was already, if he had just said he’d seen it too?”

LK: “I don’t know, Art. I’m not really in a position to, you know, know what the answer to that is. I mean, my concern with all this right now is simply as a journalist I’m very interested in telling your listeners what it’s like to cover a story like this. And just some observations that I’ve made, not only about the case in terms of my own investigation, and also just how the media works around all this. I think it’s really, really an interesting journey to be on, quite honestly.”

AB: “Boy, I agree with that!

One thing I’d like to note – and see if you agree, Leslie ...”

LK: “Um-hmm.”

AB: “I’m going back to the night that I took all the millions of calls ...”

LK: “Right, right.”

AB: “The next day and the next week, and even the next month, Leslie, there was nothing in any other media. It’s like it didn’t happen!”

LK: “I know ... That was amazing until the USA Today story came out in June, which is what got the story onto the national level. But you’re right, there was – except for your program, I’m sure – but there was about a two (2) month period where there was no national coverage anyway of this thing. It just disappeared.”

AB: “And then it’s like somebody threw a switch.”

LK: “Well, it’s one of the amazing components of it. I mean, I’ve talked at length with Frances Barwood, who I know you’ve had on the show before.”

AB: "Oh, yes. Oh, yes."

LK: "And she's fascinated by the fact that people literally seemed to *forget* about it for a few months. And, um, we ... I've noticed this in other UFO cases. [JS note: Believe it's because people need time to digest their experience.] There is a kind of mechanism sometimes that seems to be in operation where people have some kind of a blackout about what happened. And here it happened on a mass scale, so it's ... it's a very fascinating aspect of the whole thing."

AB: "Do you have any answers for that?"

LK: "Oh gosh! I don't ... no, I don't know what's goin' on with that. But you know there are a lot of people who have looked into many cases where that, that seems to have happened to people where they just don't ..."

AB: "Yeah, but that's part of the media story, Leslie."

LK: "Excuse me!"

AB: "That's part of the media story. In other words, how can that happen? How can the media be silent about a giant event like that? Two (2) months go by and then all of a sudden – Boom! All of the media's on it ... Is it just a herd thing?"

LK: "I really think it is, Art, because the media ... you say they're all on it. They get on it for a couple days and then it goes away! And what's important to me, you know, as an investigative reporter ... I mean, when you look at the story like this, there are so many things that an investigative reporter could follow-up on with this. To take it much further ... and I'm sure it's going to happen here.

Now, there's going to be another round of media, because the film *Out of the Blue* is going to be coming out with the original interview with Governor Symington with a lot more information in it than we have already. So there's going to be another blast of all this stuff in about a month when this movie comes out."

AB: "Okay. How did you ..."

LK: "Otherwise it just disappears – it always happens!"

AB: "Yeah, yeah ..."

LK: "You know, just a quick example, Art, of something that I wrote in my story which is the one that actually first came out – which was last Sunday. You

know, I don't know ... and people can go on my website and read it. You'll probably need the address which is freedomofinfo.org.

But the point is I discuss the fact that in both Belgium and in England, both of these cases in the nineteen-nineties (1990s), there was a very similar, if not identical, triangle observed over those two (2) countries. It was thoroughly investigated by the government. And there were many witnesses. They were all interviewed. There was, you know, data collected. Air Force in Belgium got all this stuff on radar. The MOD – Ministry of Defense – investigated the case in England, and they were three (3) years apart. Both those governments came out publicly and stated that this craft was a craft of unknown origin. They could not identify what it was. They released the information to the public.

Now when you compare that to what's happening in America, the contrast is *vast*, of course, because our government doesn't even acknowledge that *anything* happened in Arizona. But the point being, any investigative journalist who is interested in this could follow-up on those cases in Europe, and draw up a comparison of what happened here and what happened there. And there's so many little things like that that come out and nobody follows up on them, and that's what really astounding to me."

AB: "How did you get onto this story?"

LK: "Um, I got onto this particular story because I'm very closely associated with James Fox, who's one of the producers of the film *Out of the Blue* that I mentioned earlier. And I've been a colleague of his and of the other producers for years. So I was kind of privy to the fact that James, who originally met with Symington and interviewed him, was informed about this. And we both ... he recognized it was a big story. I recognized it was a big story. And, ah, we all kind of decided together that we would get it out ... try to get it out by the anniversary of the Phoenix Lights – the tenth (10th) anniversary, which we just had."

AB: "Right."

LK: "And so, um, I was very, very pleased to be able to. And then of course, I did my own interview with him, and as I said, there will be more that will come out in April when *Out of the Blue* gets released for the second time. But I was very pleased to be able to break the story in the ... you know, in the print media, and that's sort of the way it happened. It was through my association with *Out of the Blue*."

AB: "Right. Well, Governor Symington went quite a bit further than saying he saw the Phoenix Lights. You know, he goes on to say apparently that what he thinks he saw was an alien craft. We have ... That's a big jump!"

LK: “That is a big jump. You know, and I think the first step to make really clear – the first point he makes was that he did see a physical craft with dimension, with shape.

It was not just **lights!**

And one of the things I’ve noticed, which is one of the points I wanted to make, Art, to your listeners is: The media is very fond of referring to the event as ‘The Lights.’”

AB: “Yes.”

LK: “If you notice in the AP story that you were sort of quoting from in the beginning of the show – they keep referring it to ‘The Lights’! The Governor saw The Lights! In fact, he didn’t! He saw a physical craft – a vehicle with edges, you know, with physicality, that has some lights on it. And the point that’s really important also along those lines is to make a distinction between the eight-thirty (8:30 pm) – there was a group ... a sighting that occurred between eight-fifteen (8:15 pm) and nine-forty-five (9:45 pm) ...”

AB: “The flares and the real thing, yeah.”

LK: “Exactly, and that’s when ... well that’s when the thousands of people saw this solid object over Phoenix and in other locations throughout Arizona. Then there was a separate event at ten o’clock (10:00 pm), which is those famous videos, you know, that we’ve all seen many, many times of the row of lights that some people believe are flares.

And anyway, it’s very important for people to realize that those were two (2) different events. And the media ... every single media story you read, they mix them up. They just say: ‘Oh, there were these lights, and some people say they were flares, and blah, blah, blah, blah ...’ But there was a very separate event at about eight-fifteen (8:15 pm) and that’s the window of time in which Governor Symington saw the object. ... In which it was a physical object and not the same thing as the pictures that we all see of those ... you know, the row of lights – which Bruce Maccabee, among others, believe were flares, according to their own analysis.

But we know that the time period in which the Governor saw this object ... we’re not dealing with the issue of flares at that time. We’re dealing with the *fact* that there was a physical craft in the sky and thousands of people saw it.”

AB: “You bet. Leslie, did you interview ... did you speak to the Governor?”

LK: "I did. I did a lengthy interview with him myself, yes."

AB: "All right, all right ... good. Can you characterize, um ... the Governor's demeanor during that interview at all?"

LK: "Yeah, absolutely."

AB: "There are some things that just don't come out in a story, and one of those is the demeanor of the person during the interview."

LK: "That's absolutely right. And of course it will come out when people see the movie *Out of the Blue* – they will see him on camera. And he's a very, you know ... he's just willing to sort of cooperate ... with us on this. I mean, he's just a very honorable, believable, credible person. And you know he doesn't give long, long detailed answers. He's just right to the point, and, you know, says, you know, I've decided now that I want to make amends to people. You know, this does not deserve to be ridiculed.

He had his reasons for what he did at the time, and has given an explanation for it. And I'm sure that we will learn more over time about all that. But, um, he seems extremely sincere to me."

AB: "Okay."

LK: "And he's also been very concerned that this story come out properly. You know, that's why he wanted me to be the one to do it, because he knows I've written on UFOs before. That I know something about them – it's not going to be some fluff piece that's gonna come out.

And he really does care about how the information is presented ... and he cares that the truth be told about this event. He wants the government to investigate this. And he said he gets behind this – he's not going to back off."

AB: "Did he have regret now that he did not come out then, and if he had it all to do over again, would he have come out?"

LK: "Well, you know, he certainly regrets having done that press conference. I mean, he understands ... he does not seem to have been as aware as he would have liked to have been about how much that upset people.

In terms of whether he wishes he would have come out, I didn't ask him that question directly, so that's something that will have ... you know, somebody else will have ... I don't want to speak for him on that.

I mean, there were so many factors that affected his decision not to come out. As a politician ...”

AB: “Was the press conference ...”

LK: “Excuse me.”

AB: “Was the press conference his idea?”

LK: “He says it was entirely his idea. That nobody pressured him. Nobody influenced him. And that’s what he says ... that he just wants people to lighten up. So he decided to do this.

Again, hopefully we’ll learn more about all that as time ... you know, as things unfold. So that’s what he says, yes. It’s his idea.”

AB: “Leslie, this is just asking for your opinion as a reporter, but ...”

LK: “Um-hmm.”

AB: “You know the reason he gave is he didn’t want to panic the populace. Okay, fair enough, and you know, I think something like that could panic the populace. If the government, uh, had hardcore evidence that something from somewhere else was in our skies, um, at any given time, is it your opinion that for the very same reason, they would probably make the very same decision?”

LK: “Yes, Art, it actually ... I ... I ... and I don’t know if that’s your opinion, but yes, that is my opinion. That is ...”

AB: “Mine too.”

LK: “And there may even be some wisdom in that opinion. You know, I don’t know ...”

AB: “There may be ... may be.”

LK: “You know, I think, you know, he said he didn’t want people to panic. He also said he didn’t want to stir the pot up too much. I mean he was going through a lot of issues in the state of Arizona at that point. He was an elected official. And so I think, you know, he just didn’t want to muddy ... muddy his own situation. And you know, he was being challenged by the courts for some kind of ... in a court case.”

AB: “Yes.”

LK: “And so, he ... I don’t think he felt, you know, saying he’d seen a UFO would help his situation very much – that’s part of it.”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

LK: “I thought that, you know, there were a lot of things. As you know people – elected officials have a lot of trouble dealing with this issue. Um, so, I don’t know whether he would say, you know, when I look back on that, that he could have felt he could have done that part any differently, I don’t know. And I agree with you, Art, I think that he represents, you know, what most people in government would probably feel about this. If they, you know, in terms of the question of whether they would speak out about it or not, if they knew something.

AB: “Well, the times certainly are changing, but not that much. And I really feel – and I’ve said this again and again, ah, despite other people’s protests on the subject – that they just wouldn’t make it public, Leslie.

The Brookings Institution did a big study on this, and they kinda said the same thing that if we had hard evidence of aliens being here, it would probably better be kept secret.”

LK: “All right. Especially if they ... they would have to say that they’re here, and we can’t do anything about it and we have no power, and they have better technology than we do. And that’s it – Good night! (laughs). You know, end of story. (laughs). I don’t think any government wants to admit something like that.”

AB: “How did he imagine that his now admitting this would affect the whole story?”

LK: “Very interesting question, and I, you know, I can’t really say except that he seems very committed to pursuing the truth on this matter. I mean he ... he really believes that there’s an issue here that needs to be investigated. And, um, I think he’s gonna be really helpful. And, ah, you know, that’s as far as I know right now.”

AB: “Right. All right, Leslie, hold it right there. We’re talking to Leslie Kean, who broke the Fife Symington story about what he really saw. What he now admits he really saw, which he calls an ‘alien spacecraft.’ He believes it was an alien spacecraft.

So ... we’re going to take a break here and we’re going to continue exploring this along with ... By the way, she did a story on the O’Hare sightings and something on the French government, which just released all they’ve got! ... I’m Art Bell.”

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AB: "Tis I ... Hello everybody! Leslie Kean is here. She broke the Farmington ... Governor, ah ... Fife Symington story ... I'll get it right ... maybe ... maybe ... ha, ha.

It's a big story. It really is a big story, but it's not her only story. She's reported on UFOs previously. I think she just filed something on the O'Hare sighting. Ah, previously she's had other stories – the Kecksburg UFO case and others. If she's not careful, ah, she'll get to a certain point, and she'll be known as the UFO reporter.

In a moment, Leslie Kean (!)

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AB: "Well, let's see ... the Kecksburg crash, that was a big story and then she wrote about, ah ... well, I guess it was Kecksburg actually in the lawsuit. A UFO thing in the Boston Globe ... ah, hmm, that was a French thing, and then O'Hare. And now of course, ah, Fife Symington ... um, Leslie, how many UFO stories do you think you can write before you get to be the UFO reporter?"

LK: "Geez, I don't know – maybe I already am the UFO reporter, Art ... (AB laughs). Maybe the only one – I don't know."

AB: "(continues laughing). Believe me ..."

LK: "It hasn't been easy, hasn't been easy ..."

AB: "... You can report on mainstream everything and then just about six (6) or seven (7) UFO stories in a few years, and they will label you. Anybody ... anybody who doesn't like you, Leslie, is going to label you the UFO gal."

LK: "I know. Well, so far it's been okay. ... And I think it's because I'm so careful about what I publish, Art. That I publish only very factual straightforward information. So I haven't really given people a lot of fodder to make fun of me. And so far, it's really been okay, I have to say actually."

AB: "Good. ... Good."

LK: "So, ah ... you know, you just gotta know how to present this issue, and I've had a lot of good people advising me. You have to present it in a certain way where you don't give anybody fodder to make fun of you."

AB: “Right. Well ... they will anyway. ... What have you written on the O’Hare thing?”

LK: “On O’Hare, basically you know, the story was broken by John Hilkevitch from the Chicago Tribune. You’ve probably talked about it on the show, right?”

AB: “Ohh, yes.”

LK: “People know what it’s about. So I did a follow-up piece to his piece. Basically I wanted to put the whole thing in a kind of a bigger context of dealing with aviation safety issues. And also I did an interview with the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] about it, following up on Hilkevitch’s interview, but they ... they told me that you know, it was something ... you know, first of all, they said it was weather, right? ... as you know, but then they got more specific with me and said it was something called a hole-punch cloud, which is a very specific phenomenon that occurs very rarely, but it does happen, where you’ll see this clear-cut hole in a cloud. You know, like people describe that this object causes holes ... Anyway, I was able to interview a bunch of cloud physicists and climatologists, and I find out that it absolutely could not have been a hole-punch cloud, because it was *too warm* that day.”

AB: “Huh ...”

LK: “A hole-punch cloud can only occur in below-freezing temperatures. I mean, that’s the simple answer. So here the FAA is suggesting that it’s something that can’t even exist in those kind of conditions. It pretty much wipes out their argument. They’ve been able to offer nothing else to explain away this situation, so I was hoping that ...”

AB: “Not to mention ... I’m sorry.”

LK: “No, I just wanted the attention on the subject, you know.”

AB: “Not to mention the eyewitnesses who saw a solid craft, Leslie.”

LK: “Absolutely! I mean, that was well-covered by Hilkevitch. I was trying to sort of add to that ... And I also did an interview with John Callahan, who was very high-level in the FAA in the Eighties (1980s) – you may be familiar with him ...?”

AB: “Oh yes.”

- LK: “Yeah, and was head of accidents and investigations, and was very involved in the Alaska case in 1986 over ... you know, the Japan Airlines case.”
- AB: “Yes.”
- LK: “So he’s very experienced in dealing with this very situation where the FAA has all kinds of potential ... you know, they have a lot of data on that case and then they basically wrote it off. So he came out as an advocate for this particular case and the story, and, uh, made this very nice little quote here. He said this was predictable, the response of the FAA here. And he said: ‘The FAA will offer a host of other explanations as if they’re wearing a *blindfold*. It’s always something else, so it can’t be what it is.’”
- AB: “Yeah? Well it used to be ‘swamp gas,’ now it’s a ‘hole-punch cloud.’”
- LK: “Exactly! And what will it be next time?”
- AB: (laughs).
- LK: “You know, I mean, they’ll just come up with whatever’s convenient, and this happens. But it was important that we have somebody of his stature I think, to make that kind of a statement.”
- AB: “Ah, no question about it. Yeah, you’re doing really good work, and I don’t want to discourage you at all.”
- LK: “Well, thank you.”
- AB: “Don’t be discouraged – this is really important stuff.”
- LK: “I don’t feel discouraged ... I get more inspired every time that you get into this battle mode here. And you just want to keep pushing!”
- AB: “That’s right.”
- LK: “Could I give out my website, Art?”
- AB: “You certainly can!”
- LK: “Um, if people want to go read the original story on Fife Symington, which is much more complete than anything that’s come out since. Go to the website, which is www.freedomofinfo.org [no longer extant], short for freedom of information. And on that site there’s a link to *Out of the Blue* website, and you can actually see a clip of Governor Symington on that site talking about what he saw.”

AB: "Ohh!"

LK: "So, go to freedomofinfo.org and then you can go to *Out of the Blue*, which is outofthebluemovie.com."

AB: "Well, I hope your website's ready for a lot of traffic ..."

LK: "I hope it doesn't crash like the French government website did ..."

AB: "Yeah ... the French ... ah, listen, what do you think of the French, by the way?"

LK: "Um, I'm very pleased with what they've done!

My first story that I wrote for the Boston Globe in 2000, my first *UFO story* – I've covered lots of other subjects, but – was about the French report, the Cometa Report, which you probably remember."

AB: "I do."

LK: "So I was very, of course, very pleased with that. And I think it's terrific that they've released these files and I ... I look forward to get somebody to translate like all hundred thousand (100,000) documents."

AB: "Don't you find it ... I ... I found it really intriguing. It's coming out that only, uh, only or rather twenty-five percent (25%) of the reports the French are, uh, disclosing were completely inexplicable. Twenty-five percent (25%), now that's a far, far higher number, Leslie, than, ah, any other government has ever admitted."

LK: "That's true, although wasn't that comparable to the, um, Project Blue Book? Didn't they have something like thirty percent (30%)?"

AB: "Ohh? ... Nooo ..."

LK; "Thirty-three percent (33%) I thought it was, ah ..."

AB: "I thought it was much lower."

LK: "... when you actually looked at the data ... I think they claimed it was lower, but isn't it when you actually looked at it, that it was much higher. I don't think that ..."

AB: "Well, maybe it's subjective, the official version was very low – under ten percent (10%)."

LK: “No, the official version was. But I think if you actually read it, you know ... people like Stanton Friedman, who have studied this thing inside out. I think they concluded that it was actually quite a large percentage of cases. But here the government is actually coming out and saying it.”

AB: “Do you think that the French government’s releasing virtually everything – I assume we’ve got most of it – is going to lead to other governments, perhaps even ours, ah, doing the same thing?”

LK: “Let’s hope so. I mean, I was hoping the Cometa Report would lead our military to, you know, take similar steps, because there’s so many issues that they addressed, and that report had to do with the military and national security, and so forth. And of course, it didn’t happen, but ... you know, maybe there’s something now that’s gonna happen here.

We’ve got Symington, we’ve got these French documents, we’ve got a lot of other sightings going on around the world. Maybe we’ve got some momentum here. Who knows?”

AB: “Actually we’re having ... I would say we’re having a ‘flap’ right now.”

LK: “Seems that way, doesn’t it?”

AB: “Yes it does. Um-hmpf, it does.”

LK: “Seems like we’ve got a lot happening all at once.”

AB: “Are you going to stay ...?”

LK: “You know, the O’Hare stuff was only a couple of months ago also.”

AB: “Yes, yes. Are you going to stay very hard on this area, Leslie?”

LK: “Am I going to stay with Phoenix Lights?”

AB: “No, no, not necessarily ... no. With the whole subject?”

LK: “Yes, absolutely – I’m very committed to it. Yes. I mean, once you get hooked on something like this, it’s hard to stop. And I think it’s an extremely important subject, and I only wish more journalists would take it seriously. It deserves to be taken seriously.”

AB: “Have you ever seen anything yourself?”

LK: “I haven’t, no. And you know, and I probably ... and I’ve been told, and I believe that it’s probably a good thing that I haven’t because it sort of gives me an aura – a greater aura for objectivity if I haven’t seen one myself – you know what I mean?”

- AB: "I, ah ... not only do I know what you mean, but unfortunately I had a sighting years into doing this program. I had a triangle directly over me ..."
- LK: "Uh-huh."
- AB: "... and my wife."
- LK: "I think I've heard about it."
- AB: "I've thought about it, Leslie, really, really hard before. I went public with it. And the only reason I did, finally, is because I brought my wife at the time on, and she of course backed up everything I said. Had it been myself alone, I think I would have never said a word."
- LK: "Hmpf. ... As big as the one in Phoenix?"
- AB: "Ahh, that's subjective, but it was monstrous and when it went over, the moon went away, the stars went away, and then I watched it cross the entire valley. It was deadly, absolutely silent. About a hundred fifty feet (150 ft.) above me. No, um, sound whatsoever. No propulsion system of any kind. It wasn't flying. Hadn't been doing more than about thirty (30) miles an hour, so it was floating or, if you wish, defying gravity. Whichever."
- LK: "Right. Sounds just like they described. In fact, when I talked to Symington, he kept emphasizing the silent part of it. How absolutely phenomenal that the dead silence was, and how that made him feel that it could not possibly be one of ours. We just don't have technology like that."
- AB: "Yet. What I saw had all kinds of substance to it. It was black in color. It was, uh, you could make out the details of it very, very clearly. I felt like I could throw a rock at it – it was that close, Leslie, so ..."
- LK: "Amazing!"
- AB: "You know, maybe it's better if you don't see something, because as you point out, it ... it ... it let's you be more objective."
- LK: "Who knows? I'd sure like to! You know we're hoping also Art, that maybe Symington's statement will help other witnesses feel encouraged to speak out about this. Maybe other people in ... in higher levels in government, or in levels of a profession where they felt they couldn't talk about it."

Just to mention very briefly, there's going to be a conference next weekend in Arizona principally for the purpose of providing a forum for witnesses. The witnesses are going to be there and talk about this incident."

AB: "Ah!"

LK: "And so I just wanted ... I promised the organizer I would give out the website: It's www.siriusseminars.com [no longer extant] if anybody is interested in attending, or they can send me an email if they didn't get to write that down. Go ... from my website and I'll give them the information."

AB: "siriusseminars.com. Leslie, how's the, uh, how's the feedback to what the Governor has said, been so far?"

LK: "Well, I'm glad you asked that because it's been pretty positive. I mean, the media has been all over this, and he has decided after doing CNN [Cable News Network], which was on a couple days ago that he's not going to do any more media for awhile. But it was really quite respectful and positive, and just ... you know, just Friday, the story came out on the AP [Associated Press], which I feel is beginning the sort of, ah, tinge ... ridicule that we all get with these stories.

You know, they talk about the fact that he was a Trekkie, and they talk about it ... and then they bring on a pilot, who says: 'Oh, it was just airplanes,' and the guy ... and you know, any rational person would realize that. And it's, ah, you know, it's just much more the typical kind of story.

So ... so far after a lot of interest, I just hope that it doesn't become sort of an attack on him after awhile."

AB: "Um-hmm."

LK: "You know, that's what often happens. Um, but it's been amazing how much interest there is in this ... !"

AB: "Yeah. It says further down in the article: 'Tucson astronomer and retired Air Force pilot, James McGaha, said he investigated two (2) separate sightings over Phoenix that March night and traced *both* of them to A-10 aircraft flying in formation at high altitude.'"

LK: "Yeah, I mean, you know, that's fine, but you know a thousand (1,000) other people saw something between eight-fifteen (8:15 pm) and eight-forty-five (8:45 pm) that was not airplanes in formation. I mean, that's just the fact!"

And you know, for AP to pick this one guy ... end the whole story with his comments as if it's sort of the definitive perspective, you know, on this whole thing. I mean, it's just very biased!"

AB: "Yes ... yes. Well, Leslie, here's one for you ... Ah, remember the sighting I told you I had?"

LK: "Yes!"

AB: "Well, many, many people here in the Pahrump Valley, the valley where I live in southern Nevada, also saw the same craft that night. And of course, they all contacted the local newspaper and media here in Pahrump, and, ah, the newspaper in turn called Nellis Air Force Base, and, ah, said: 'What the hell's goin' on?'"

LK: "Hmpf."

AB: "Nellis said: 'Oh yes, there was a ... a secret mission that may have overflowed the Pahrump Valley on that night at about that time. It was a C-130 aircraft on a secret mission.'"

LK: "Yeah, right."

AB: "I flew in C-130's, Leslie. They're not triangular. They have extremely loud engines that rattle your teeth at one hundred fifty feet (150 ft.), and they have no relationship whatsoever to what I saw. It was an insult!"

LK: "Exactly! That's just exactly right, Art, and that's just exactly what this James McGaha's statement is to Symington and every other person who saw this thing.

I mean, it was so low ... you just said it all right there (!), from somebody who actually saw it themselves!

And then there was the case in Illinois in two thousand (2000) – do you remember that?"

AB: "Hmmm ..."

LK: "Of the police officers who saw this thing in the middle of the night in different locations ..."

AB: "I've run the audio – the actual radio audio of that here on the air, Leslie. It's *astounding* to really hear it!"

LK: "I've heard some of that. There was a documentary on the Travel Channel of all places about it that was really excellent, and they played the tapes of when the officers were calling in to headquarters to report it. That's what you're probably talking about."

AB: "It is."

LK: "It's incredible!"

AB: "Listen, Leslie, listen. I'm just asking for an opinion here, so everybody be clear on that. But Leslie, how much do you imagine government really knows about this topic that ... they're not saying?"

LK: "Again, ... it's all opinion and conjecture. But it's hard for me to imagine that these sightings have been going on for, let's say, since the nineteen-forties (1940s), maybe earlier, how they can simply not be interested in something like this? It's just *inconceivable* (!) that they ... Therefore, if you want to assume, they've gotta be interested in things flying around.

Therefore, whatever capabilities they have of collecting information about these things, they're obviously going to do that. Whether they ... maybe they've retrieved craft that crashed? I don't know, but anybody ... any rational person would have to assume that the government is going to be interested in something like this."

AB: "Well, here's an angle, Leslie ... after Blue Book, after Project Blue Book ..."

LK: "Um-hmm."

AB: "... the government said: 'We don't know what these are, but whatever they are, are not a threat to national security. Now that's an amazing statement! Because aircraft in violation of your airspace ... can violate at will and that's not a threat to national security? (!) I would be interested in what a threat to national security ... how it is defined. (?)'"

LK: "Exactly! Especially now after nine-eleven (September 11, 2001 or 9/11/2001), when people are so concerned about it. That was a very, you know, it came up a lot around the O'Hare case.

You have something hovering over an airport in restricted airspace! Isn't that a threat to some kind of security?"

AB: "Very busy airspace."

- LK: “And if it had been a plane – this is a point that is very important – if that had been a plane, from you know, let’s say an unidentified airplane that had come in from let’s say even from another country or even, you know, some pilot that was off-course, it would have been tracked and investigated, and it would have been a big deal and considered a safety violation.”
- AB: “Day and night.”
- LK: “So here ... just because it’s something, you know, that looks like a disk, they’re gonna decide it’s not a threat. It doesn’t make any sense at all.”
- AB: “Other countries are so much more open. For example, Mexico ... whether they’re actually in Mexico City at the airport there , they’ve actually had collisions and near-collisions, including collisions with UFOs!”
- LK: “Right.”
- AB: “And they report on these things! Here, as the old movie goes: ‘No, I don’t wanta report one of those things.’”
- LK: “Exactly. I think we’re really on the extreme and that was again the example I gave of both Belgium and the UK [United Kingdom], which has acknowledged publicly that these triangles exist, and they can’t identify them. They’re not American. They’re not anything else that you can explain. I mean ...”
- AB: “Well ... normally ...”
- LK: “Can you imagine if the American government ever came out and said that? I mean, it would just be unthinkable, ’cause we’re so used to having our government be in such denial about this.”
- AB: “Normally, Leslie, if we have something even in the test stage, it’s leaked like crazy, you know? I mean, there are pictures of it. That sort of thing ... You don’t see pictures of these giant triangles, ah, even in speculation with regard to some secret U.S. aircraft that’s being developed.”
- LK: “That’s absolutely right, and if it was ... if let’s say these triangles have been seen since the seventies (1970s), wouldn’t we ... if we had that technology, wouldn’t we have used it by now?”
- AB: “That’d be my opinion.”
- LK: “I mean, but we, we ... you know it’s inconceivable that anybody who saw this thing over Phoenix, and I ... and you, yourself. I ... I don’t know, it’s

pretty hard to imagine that any ... that we could have that technology from what I've heard about it. But we did! Why would they be flying it around over populated areas? Why wouldn't they be making use of it?"

AB: "Well, the other side of the argument is: There are *all kinds* of UFO reports even of, uh, UFO crashes going on right now in Iran. And of course we're very interested in what's going on in Iran right now. So, maybe we are flying something or another ... However, uh, if we ... if something like that had crashed, the Iranians would be parading it around in the streets, and there hasn't been any of that!"

LK: "Right. No, that Iranian crash thing, that was ... I remember reading about that. That sounded pretty interesting! But I don't know much about it."

AB: "Ah, well, it was probably ..."

LK: "It's hard to get information out of Iran, I guess ..."

AB: "I know. There's probably another story there ..."

This is ah, ... I'm proud of you for following this path, because you know, there's ... there's a possibility of being ridiculed when you do this kind of story, so ... Stay Careful, Leslie!"

LK: "Thank you. It is difficult! I mean, I wasn't trying to diminish that. I get ... It's more difficult when I'm one-on-one with people – when people ask what I do. You know, and you mention UFOs and there's always sort of this laugh ... or something like that."

AB: "I know."

LK: "But I ... I ... I'm very grateful, you know. There hasn't been any kind of public attack or ridicule so far. I think I've just been very careful about how I present, and that's the key thing, so ..."

AB: "Stay careful. Yes, there's almost always an ... an obligatory chuckle at the end of *any* UFO story."

LK: "That's absolutely right. When you mention [the] *word*, it's so loaded, you know. That's why a lot of scientists prefer to use some other terminology. (laughs). So ah, it's ... it's ah, it's not fun, but well ... hopefully it'll change (!) ... over time ..."

AB: "Leslie ..."

LK: "... The more serious information we can get out there, the more and more people will acclimate to it."

AB: "Leslie Kean, thank you for being here."

LK: "Thank you very much for having me, Art."

AB: "Good night."

LK: "Good night."

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