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Feb. 3, 1978

Dear Gary:

It was 7 p.m. before I left the office, exhausted from a hard day probing a very controversial international aviation issue, and by a cold and hacking cough that should have sent me to bed to recover but for the press of Aviation Week business. Thus I arrived home weary, exhausted.

But your letters of Jan. 23 (and Jan. 26) have moved me almost to tears and so I must respond tonight and express my thanks.

Soon after I entered the "Strange Land of UFOria" I realized that I had undertaken a largely thankless task. That for most people, who think the whole issue is nonsense, I was on a fool's errand, while for those who are interested and who generally are "believers," my efforts would evoke only harsh criticism.

Lest I seem to be playing the role of a Martyr let me hasten to say that I enjoy the challenge, else I would long ago have abandoned ship.

Yet just as it must rankle a true University scholar, who is paid \$18,000 per year and is doing truly valuable research and teaching, to see the football coach being paid \$60,000 per year and receiving all the acclaim, so it has rankled a bit to read/see Hynek acclaimed as the "world's greatest UFO expert," for proclaiming that he has no answers--after spending an hour or a day investigating a case--while I (and my associates) may spend weeks, months ferreting out a prosaic explanation, only to be ignored (in large part) by the media and the "world of UFOlogy."

But your letter of Jan. 23 is ample reward for all my efforts--truly.

What you have dared to say to the "Galileo of UFOlogy," the Great Guru, has long needed to be said. I would not dare to say it, for it would sound immodest. (And thank heavens no one can accuse me of having urged or prompted you to write it.)

You are the first, to my knowledge, to brazenly comment that the Emperor is NAKED!

This does not oblige you to accept all of my findings, nor to withhold challenge. I welcome it. I enjoy it. For via challenge emerges the "truth."

But you have warmed the cockles of my heart and given me heart to keep up the fight.

And as the date of my Univ. of Del. lecture approaches, let's chat. My home phone is (202)-554-5901; Office: (202) 624-7586

