

1995 07 31 Monday Rep. Steven Schiff 1947 Roswell Crash/Waco

AB: "Let us begin with Roswell once again this evening, because I have Congressman Schiff on the phone – Steven Schiff from New Mexico.

Now for those of you that know about Roswell, you already know about Congressman Schiff. Um, I think the best way to tell the story is – to those who don't – is to just simply get him on the air and [break in transmission – explain] the genesis of how all this began.

Congressman Schiff, Welcome to Coast to Coast AM."

REP. STEVEN SCHIFF

SS: "Good Morning, Art. Thank you for having me on your program."

AB: "Well, um, I think you're a good person to get up at two ... two o'clock in the morning (2:00 a.m.) back there."

SS: "Well, let me say first I ... I know we owe you one. I wanna say to ... to you and to your listeners, I apologize. I was supposed to be on last evening and, ah, a ... a miscommunication *solely on our side*, ahh ..."

AB: "Well, that's all right."

SS: "... I didn't realize it was confirmed.

So glad to be on tonight."

AB: "Ah, glad to have you, and I know it's a particular stress because I know you're on the Waco, ah, hearings committee, and I think they ... they on occasion go all night. Congress goes all night. And so it's rough.

Um, all right, Congressman, let's go back a little bit before we get to what's happened. And one of the reasons I wanna have you on: "How in the world did you get involved, um, in the beginning in all of this?

In other words, why call for an investigation into what happened in Roswell? What piqued your interest?"

SS: "Well, first I just wanta, Art, get in one (1) thing and hope we can get to it at some point, but this is just for listeners in New Mexico:

Ah, there was a, ah, article in the ... in the Albuquerque Journal Saturday morning written by a gentleman named Richard Parker, who's the Al- ... Albuquerque Journal's Washington correspondent, ..."

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “... about the General Accounting report that I released ... received Friday and released Friday, that states *my conclusion* that this was a balloon – *and I never stated any conclusion (!)*

So to say the least, this article is way off, so, ah, at the appropriate time I’d like to go back and ...”

AB: “Oh, we ... we ...”

SS: [Unintelligible].

AB: “... absolutely will!”

SS: “But starting at the beginning as you asked, I must say I’ve never asked for an investigation of the Roswell Incident in those terms.

What I asked for was what government records might still exist about the Roswell Incident, so that I can, ah, make those public, which ... which I have now done.”

AB: “What ... why ... why ... why were you curious?

Ah, was it a constituent ... ?”

SS: “Well, I received ... this goes back now to the end of 1993, and, um, I started receiving, ah, letters from, ah, from inside of New Mexico – and some from outside – about the Roswell Incident.

Now I’ve lived, ah, I’m ... I’m originally from Chicago, but I’ve lived in New Mexico in Albuquerque for ... for over twenty-six (26) years, so I’ve heard of the Roswell Incident.”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “And, ah, again as you said, for listeners who might not be familiar with it, the Roswell Incident was in 1947. And, um ... there ... there, ah, there is ... *there are two (2) things that are not in dispute about.*

The first is something crashed in 1947 near Roswell. And Roswell is located in southeast New Mexico.”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “The second thing that is not contested is that the Army Air Corps from ... from – ah, obviously now the U.S. Air Force – from Roswell Army Air Field, um, *put out a press release that day that called what crashed a ‘flying disk.’ This is their words.*

(And flying disk ... we would say today ‘flying saucer.’)”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “An extraterrestrial visitation.

And needless to say that created quite a ... quite a commotion back in 1947 as it would in any time.”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “And about, ah ... oh, eight (8) hours after the Army Air Corps said it was a flying disk, they came out with a statement that said: ‘Oops, we made a mistake. It wasn’t a flying disk. It was a weather balloon.’”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “Um, which of course raises the question: ‘Can’t somebody tell a weather balloon from a flying saucer?’

But ... but that ... those facts as I have given them to you are uncontested. After that, ah, disagreement begins.

There are many people who believe that, ah, that was really a flying saucer. *In ... in some cases people believe complete with, ah, alien bodies from the crash (!)*”

AB: “Umm-hmm!”

SS: “There are other people who do not necessarily accept the flying saucer theory – or ... or, ah, extraterrestrial visit theory, but they don’t believe the weather balloon theory either, which turned out to be at the very least, that turned out to be appropriate thinking. The military rejected the ... the weather balloon theory recently.

Ah, that didn’t mean they adopted an extraterrestrial visit ...”

AB: “Well, they ... yeah, but they re-adopted the weather balloon. They said: ‘Well, it wasn’t a weather balloon, it was a special balloon.’”

SS: “Right. Ah, with some differences. And that leads to where the Albuquerque Journal story is all wrong I think.

But I got these requests ... what the requests were were everyone who wrote said: ‘The military is not telling us the truth about Roswell.

It is not a weather balloon. And as I said, the military has at least conceded that point ... much later.

Now it is quite clear, Art, that a number of the people who wrote believe this was an extraterrestrial visitation.”

AB: “Yes.”

SS: “I don’t think necessarily all of them did. But they all had in common that they felt it wasn’t what they were told – it wasn’t a weather balloon.

So, um, I ... I [(tape broken) – contacted] the Secretary of Defense – the late Les Aspin, ah, telling him about what people were saying, who were writing to me, and asking for: ‘Could you ... could you send me back an official explanation of Roswell? And I’ll pass it back to those people who are contacting me.”

AB: “Okay.”

SS: “And, um, as a side note, having lived in New Mexico for many years, I knew what the Roswell Incident was. I didn’t know how prominent it had become. I didn’t know, for example, that a TV network was preparing a movie about it or that books had been written about it.

Actually I viewed this as, ah – although somewhat different I suppose in subject matter – otherwise, a routine request. We in Congress of both parties ...”

AB: “So just really a, ah, constituent service?”

SS: “Exactly! Nothing unusual.

People ... the subject matter was a bit unusual, but people write to us in Congress in both parties *regularly* and say: ‘I would like information about a certain subject.’”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “And we go to that agency, and the agency sends us information. We send it back to the constituent. And that literally happens day in and day out in Congress.”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “And I thought that this would be just as routine.

And so when I sent my request to, ah, Secretary Aspin, I thought that this would be, you know, nothing out of the ordinary. In fact, I thought the explanation would be: ‘We’ve looked into it over the years and here’s what it is, and please send that to your constituents.’

Now, that’s what I thought was going to happen – *that is not what actually happened.*”

AB: “Hmpf.”

SS: “I ... I said ... I thought this was a routine request and we do this day in and day out, but the response I got from the military was ... was anything but routine.”

AB: “Can you describe it?”

SS: “Certainly. Um, the ... I got a response back from the Air ... from the Air Force and I have no problem with that. The Secretary of Defense sent something to the Air Force ... that’s also routine.

The Air Force sent back about a one sentence letter that said: ‘We sent your request about Roswell to the National Archives.’”

AB: “Hmpf.”

SS: “Period. And, um, what ... I was ... to say the least I was taken back by this and I was taken back be- ... because, first of all, I didn’t write to the National Archives, I wrote to the Department of Defense.”

AB: “You expected an answer from ...”

SS: “I expected an answer from the Department of Defense.”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “Second of all, there’s normally a certain protocol of ... of, um, offer to help, ah, when ... when there’s a Congressional inquiry.”

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "And ... and this one basically said, ah, you know: 'Why is this on my desk? We've sent it over to the National Archives.'

And one column-, um, columnist described me as offended by that. I wasn't offended – *I was surprised.*

So I wrote again, ah, to the Secretary of Defense and I said: 'Is this the answer you really intend to stand, you know, from the inquiry I made?'"

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "And I got back another letter from a Special Assistant to Secretary Aspin that you might say was written in more diplomatic language, but essentially said the same thing: 'Go check with the National Archives.'"

AB: "Huh."

SS: "So, okay, I ... I can get a hint.

So I contacted the National Archives.

The National Archives responded that they don't have any information about Roswell."

AB: "Hmmm ..."

SS: "And they ended ... they ... they ... there was rather, ah, I can find it in context, humorous ... statement in the letter that said to me from the National Archives: 'You know, Congressman, we've received lots of requests lately at the National Archives about the Roswell Incident.'

And I'm thinking: 'Well, if the Defense Department is sending everybody to you, I'm not entirely surprised!'"

AB: (laughs).

SS: "And in fact I found out – I didn't know it at the time, but a number of members of Congress had written, ah, to the Defense Department, and they also were referred to the National Archives.

But I knew ... I knew at the very least that I'd been given a runaround. I mean, I knew that the military had to know that the National Archives had no information.

So here I've written twice (2X) to the Defense Department just saying: 'What ... what happened?' Not any hostile frame of mind. And I got sent to an agency that has no information. And at this point I was, ah, I was, ah, not happy ... can I put it to ya that way?"

AB: "Not happy."

SS: "Not happy at all!

And ... but the question is what are you going to do about it?

So ..."

AB: "Well ... a lot of us by the way that ... that write to ... to some of you – and this is certainly not a slam at you at all, Congressman – get very similar responses, I might add."

SS: "Well, I hope we all of both parties try ta ... try ta serve our constituents as ... as ... as part of the ... part of the obligation of the office I think.

This ... this was all in about, ohh, late 1993."

AB: "One would imagine that a Congressman though would get a ... get a sort of decent response of some kind."

SS: "Normally we do."

AB: "Yes."

SS: "Um, at the end of 1993, um, I ... I was meeting with some General Accounting Office officials.

The General Accounting Office, or GAO, is the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress. And my experience with them, ah, has been very good in the past. I haven't gone to them much, but when I've gone to them, my response has been very professional, excuse me [SS clears his throat], from the GAO."

AB: "It's a 'follow the money' deal. GAO, ah, I guess if something happened at Roswell, there would have to be records ..."

SS: "Well, that's ... that's what I ... that's what I told them."

AB: "Sure."

SS: "I was meeting with GAO officials on other subjects, and while they were in the office, I told them about this problem with Roswell. And I said: 'You know, there ought to be records of what happened no matter what those ... no matter what they said. I mean ... I mean here at the very least, um, there should have been an 'Oh, shoot' memorandum – I may have described it slightly differently to the GAO ..."

AB: (chuckling) "Yeah."

SS: "... but at the very least, if everything happened the way the Air Force or Army Air Corps said, somebody at ... at Roswell Army Air Field has to explain to their superiors why the best Bomb Group in the United States Army Air Corps – the only Bomb Group carrying nuclear weapons at that time – *doesn't know a weather balloon from a flying saucer (!)*"

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "At ... at this point there's a lot of explaining to do ... at the very least. I said: **'There ought to be records of all of this!'**

And so I asked the General Accounting Office, um, still in late 1993, would you be willing to do essentially a search for records? And that, ah, that's what this was all about.

It was about the General Accounting Office at my request trying to find what records exist – if ... if any ..."

AB: "They ... they were receptive to the idea?"

SS: "Oh, I imagine there was a ... ah, you know, little bit of hesitation just cause the subject matter was ... unusual from ... from a government point of view."

AB: "Sure."

SS: "But we talked about that and ... and, ah, I made the ... in fact, I ... I've gotta tell ya, Art, when I first got the request and decided to get into it, I took a deep breath. Ahh, because I know that, ah, knew then that ... that you get involved anywhere near flying saucers and little green men ..."

AB: "That's right."

SS: "... you know, you're ... you're ... you're subject to ridicule."

AB: "That's right."

SS: “And a little bit had occurred.

But frankly, there’s a lot ... there’s a different issue here. And the different issue is: People have a right in a free country to information about what their government is doing at all times, save only when there’s an immediate security need for ... for classification. I think most of us would agree with that.

And it doesn’t matter what the subject is.

In other words, nobody in government has a right to arbitrarily say: ‘That’s such an off-the-wall or unimportant subject, I’m not gonna provide the information.’

I mean, not in this country, I wouldn’t think.”

AB: “It should not be!”

SS: “Exactly! And the GAO agreed with that.

And so the GAO went ... went off to, ah ... ah, see what they could find although I have to tell you, ‘cause this was now still late 1993, the reason for the delay – we’re now a year and a half later – ...”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “... is that this ... this is a fifty (50) year old incident. And, ah, that by itself means you’ve gotta look in some nooks and crannies.

And I told them I cannot ask you to drop what you’re doing to look for records on Roswell. You might have more current requests pending for ... for ... for information from other members of Congress, so what I ask you to do is *look for it as you have time*.

And so to a great extent that explains the timeframe here. I didn’t press them to just drop everything ...”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “... and go looking for this.

I said: ‘You know, if you have other requests that someone needs something about the DoD [Department of Defense] right now, go get it for them.’”

AB: “As you can get it done, yes.”

SS: "Exactly.

And, ah, that brings us to the, I suppose, the other end now to, ah, to yesterday, as a matter of fact, or Friday, excuse me, ah, Friday.

Ah, the GAO gave me their report. And under ... under their regulations I have thirty (30) days to keep it secret essentially while I, you know, to do whatever I want to do with it and ... and before it became public ..."

AB: "Right. Sure ... sure."

SS: "... automatically.

I didn't take the 30 days after ... after the time that did go by. As soon as I got it, I got it out in a couple of hours just ta – wanted to read it first 'n' ... and then do a press statement just summarizing it.

So essentially, Art, when I got it – everybody got it."

AB: "All right.

Well, the ... the big ... the big news seems to be, um, that the records (or at least what I derive to be the big news) ... the records of the particular time in question – a couple of years of them – they were supposed to be permanently held records – and you stop me where I'm wrong – were unaccountably, um, with unknown authority ... **destroyed!**

Is that ... is that right or wrong?"

SS: "You got it right.

Although here's where I'd like to interject the correction to the ... to the Albuquerque Journal article.

Ah, the ... the Journal article, ah, says that I concluded that this ... that I personally concluded that this was a ... was a balloon. And the balloon they're talking about comes this way:

In September of 1994 – this is ... this is, ah, several months after I asked the GAO to do this investigation ..."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "... the Air Force issued a new report. And the new report said that they admitted that this was *not* a weather balloon."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "Which is interesting, 'cause that's what they've been saying for almost fifty (50) years ... *that it was a weather balloon.*"

AB: "Correct."

SS: "And a ... a weather balloon by the way never fits the circumstances.

This doesn't mean that it had to be an extraterrestrial. But, ah, there is really in my mind a great deal of testimony that ... that at the crash site, there was, ah, a high degree of military security that the ... that the remnants of what were taken were flown on a single plane off to be examined at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base ultimately.

Now you don't do that with a weather balloon. You don't ... you don't treat a weather balloon that way."

AB: (chuckling) "No."

SS: "And so, it was ... it was obvious to me that it wasn't a weather balloon."

AB: "I don't even know ... I don't even know if you re-use them.

Ah, you don't do ... right."

SS: "I wouldn't know, but I don't think you have ... the number of people who said security was stopping people on the road going toward the crash site, and that doesn't happen for a weather balloon. And the ... so that part of it didn't surprise me.

What the Air Force said the crashed vehicle was was still a balloon, but a much different balloon than a weather balloon as they describe it. It describes it as a then-classified, um ... ah, military project to determine if the Soviets were exploding nuclear weapons in the atmosphere.

And as they described it, this balloon is ... is greatly larger than a weather balloon, because it's intended for ... for high-altitude flight – higher than a weather balloon would go."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "And it carried equipment – different than a radar tracking device simply, which is what a weather balloon would carry ..."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "... again, as I understand it.

And in September of 1994 the Air Force said, you know: 'This is what it was. It was not a weather balloon.

And ... and just to, ah, just to again briefly state this, because I know many of your listeners are not from New Mexico."

AB: "Right."

SS: "The, um, the article in the Albuquerque Journal stated that I concluded that it was the ... this second balloon. And ... and the headline is: '*Schiff: The Crash Was A Balloon.*'

Flat Wrong!

What I did say was, ah, and the only conclusion I've ever stated is: *That I didn't believe the weather balloon story.*

That is not the same as saying therefore I do believe the new explanation."

AB: "Did the Journal contact your office or talk to you prior to the article?"

SS: "No, they got it from the, ah, press release, and, um, the, um ..."

AB: "Gee! The same ... the same press release ..."

SS: "... well, this is the quote ..."

AB: "... same press release ..."

SS: "I'm gonna take an extra second, if you don't mind, and just read this to you."

AB: "No, no, go ahead."

SS: "Ah, this is reading from the Albuquerque Journal article. It says:

'Schiff concluded after receiving the report: (but not in quotes) It was a crash of a classified Cold War device.'

Um, and here's the quote: "At least this effort caused the Air Force to acknowledge that the crashed vehicle was no weather balloon," Schiff said.'

Well the quote is accurate, *but the quote didn't say what the Journal said it says*. I mean the quote says I agree that it's not a weather balloon. The quote doesn't say I concluded therefore it is the new balloon ... no."

AB: "Newspaper people are so creative."

SS: "Well, but in addition to that, let me tell you the ... the, ah, the headline was: 'Schiff: Roswell UFO A Balloon' is inaccurate, but let me read the ... the headline that kinda tells you what the rest of the story says ..."

AB: "All right, can you hold onto that for a moment, Congressman?"

We've got one of these network breaks we have ..."

SS: "All right."

AB: "Okay, we're gonna break here and, ah, come back and get the rest of the story from Congressman Schiff ... New Mexico Congressman Schiff.

Ah, what an answer it is they've given!

Well, it ... it wasn't a balloon. Well, it was a balloon.

Well, it didn't happen ... did happen.

We'll be back."

* * *

AB: "New Mexico's Congressman Steven Schiff is our guest. We're talking about Roswell right now.

But hang tight. He also just happens to be on the Waco committee. We're gonna touch on that too.

Lot to talk about."

* * *

AB: "Back now to Washington and Congressman Schiff.
Congressman?"

SS: "Yes, sir."

AB: "Um ..."

SS: "I'd like to take just one more moment about the Albuquerque Journal and then ... and then ..."

AB: "Yes!"

SS: "... go on. But that's also because ... not just because I'm a New Mexican obviously – but that story got all over the country. So it's being reported in stations that aren't in New Mexico and perhaps to your listeners everywhere.

AB: "That's right."

SS: "In a nutshell the story said that I concluded that the crashed vehicle was this new Air Force explanation of a ... of, um, detection device for Soviet nuclear testing.

Absolutely not true!

What I did say was I never believed the original weather balloon story which does not convert into, ah, accepting the new story at face value."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "Ah, that was a creation of the author.

Thank you for letting me get all that out there. That ... I have to correct that.

And here is ... is what is in the report: [tape breaks] document from this era that still existed. One was an FBI teletype. And one was ... it seemed to be like an internal, ah, newsletter on the base."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "Sort of a chat- ... a chatty newsletter.

Both of those refer to a balloon with a radar tracking device. That means I'm told 'weather balloon.'

In other words, both those references were to 'weather balloon' but we ... we know from what the Air Force told us last year it wasn't a weather balloon."

AB: “So that would ... that would have been earlier ‘cooked stuff’ for the original cover story?”

SS: “It ... it could well have been.

This does not mean that the people who wrote those articles so many years ago were lying to their ... to their constituency, if you will. It may mean that they were simply repeating what they were told when the Air Force or Army Air Corps ... say Air Force retracted its original flying disk story and said it was a weather balloon.

Ah, the ... in my judgment the most potentially significant records, ah, possible were ... were not found. And the military can give no explanation as to ... as to who destroyed them or under what authority.

It’s my understanding the records I’m about to talk about were supposed to be permanent records, which mean not destroyed by anyone. And what I’m talking about are the outgoing messages from Roswell Army Air Field.

Messages are an internal military communication system like a telegraph. And I told the GAO that if we were going to find something, the most likely place to find something was there, because no matter what happened, there was enough national and even international interest in this that the military at Roswell would have been having to explain to ... to all their higher-ups what’s going on here.”

AB: “Absolutely.”

SS: “And I said: ‘Go look ... even if it was, ah, oh my goodness, you know what we did? We just called a weather balloon, a flying saucer. I mean whatever ... whatever the explanation was – look there!

And someone asked me: ‘Um, how do you know they just wouldn’t use the telephone?’ And that’s a fair question.

The answer to me is they probably used both, because there was a great deal of publicity after the Air Force ... Army Air Corps said: ‘This was a flying disk.’

So one advantage of a message is you can ... you can hit a number of your higher headquarters at one time.”

AB: “So it could ... it could not be fairly concluded then that there simply was *no paper trail at all (!)* That there was nothing destroyed, because there was nothing to destroy?”

SS: “Well, we ... but the outgoing messages would have been ... all the messages that were sent from Roswell Army Air Field that year ...”

AB: “And so it seemed parts ...”

SS: “... on whatever subject.”

AB: “O-kay.”

SS: “And I just thought that would be a good place to look ...”

AB: “Sure.”

SS: “... for a, um, particularly I ... I have a military background in another life.

And the GAO reported that those records had been destroyed.

And they said that they ... that they were destroyed *without proper authority (!)*

Now ‘without proper authority’ means (AB chuckles) the military can’t tell you who destroyed them or why.

Um, the military response on that is essentially that other records were destroyed too. In other words, ah, the ... the military can’t offer any explanation as to why these messages don’t exist, but they said: ‘Well, the 1950 year outgoing messages from Roswell Army Air Field have ... were also destroyed’

AB: “Hmpf.”

SS: “And they were also destroyed without proper entries being made as to who destroyed them and under what authority.”

AB: “I, too, have a military background and so I’ll ask you this: Ah, [(tape break) – how unusual] a circumstance is it that records covering that period of a time for any base would be without authority or no authority, destroyed? How unusual is it for this to have been done?”

SS: “Well, the ... I ... I can’t really say – this goes back before my military career.

The ... the GAO estimated after talking with the Air Force Archivist that the records were in fact destroyed over forty (40) years ago. The records were probably destroyed, you know, before they said about 1956 ...”

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "... so we don't know exactly when.

So I don't know how common it was to be destroying records that perhaps shouldn't have been destroyed more than forty (40) years ago."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "Um, a major problem of course is since the GAO has estimated that they were destroyed decades ago, they have really suggested no way of going further into this. I mean, it's not as if I can just call somebody into a congressional hearing and say: 'Why did you destroy these day before yesterday?'"

AB: "Sure."

SS: "It appears that they were destroyed *decades ago*, and we don't have an answer.

The Air Force implies that the destruction of records during this era was common. The only example they cite was Roswell for the year 1950."

AB: "Hah."

SS: "But they ... they ... in fact, the batch they were in ... the records were destroyed from late '46 to early '49. Um, and then the Air force says 1950 was destroyed. And that's their explanation (!)

And I ... I simply am not able to take it any further."

AB: "So you're stuck at this point?"

SS: "Ah ... I really am. I really think we've taken it as far as, ah, as far as we can take it.

I would say there is one other with respect to records, um, accomplishment here and that is certain agencies [tape break] ... do you have anything on the Roswell Incident?"

AB: "And time after time – I saw the report – they write back and said: 'No.'"

SS: "It's my understanding by those who've studied this ... this incident far more than I have, that for example, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA),

which says in this report that they have no records on Roswell, was never point-blank asked and responded in the past.”

AB: “Hmpf.”

SS: “And so, ah, that would be an accomplishment. As for example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was asked point-blank do they have anything? And ... and, ah, they have not, you know, they, ah, have their response. Essentially they say: ‘No,’ except that they did, ah, recognize the teletype I referred to a moment ago.

I think probably the ... the, ah, most important accomplishment was going back here to the fact that the Air Force acknowledged this wasn’t a weather balloon.

And, ah, it ... it didn’t take a rocket scientist to say ... to come to that conclusion.

But that was the first time that the military has said it wasn’t what we’ve been saying for almost fifty (50) years.”

AB: “All right.”

* * *

AB: “Three (3) out of four (4) Americans don’t trust the government.

Should we believe this story in your opinion – about, ah, destroyed records?”

SS: “Well, I ... I have no way of resolving it. I ... I mean, all I can do is put out there what the ... what the military told me ...”

AB: “Umm-hmm.”

SS: “... that they were destroyed. And if not according to policy, at least not malevolently is what ... is what they suggest.

But you know, I’m part of the government too. And that’s one reason I got into this.

Ah, as we talked about earlier, I decided that people have a right to information from their government. No one ... no one has a right to arbitrarily sit there and decide if the subject matter is important enough, within the government – will we bother ourselves to provide the information?

And, ah ... ah, I think to a great extent that was what the military did when they just, ah, passed me off to the National Archives when I originally, um, originally went into this.

And ...”

AB: “Well ... well yeah, but ...”

SS: “... what I do is I’m trying to get out everything I can.”

AB: “And we appreciate that certainly”

* * *

SS: “Even if there was no ... no, ah, cover-up here, the Air Force acted like there was a cover-up. And that ... that ... that’s just as bad, because it puts that idea in people’s minds.

In other words, when I first wrote to the military, they should have responded with whatever they were gonna respond with. And, ah, when they don’t do that ... when they send – in this case me, but also a number of other members of Congress I have since learned – to an agency, the National Archives, which has no information on this subject, ah, what are people supposed to think?

And so I ... *there’s no way I can definitively resolve the matter: **Should you trust your government?***”

AB: “How ... how would you ...”

SS: “I can tell you the ... *the government hasn’t acted like it oughta be trusted.*”

AB: “Umm-hmm. Well that’s right!

So how would you sum up your personal, ah, response ... with the word[s] ‘continued suspicion’? Would those words be appropriate?”

SS: “I ... I would use the word ‘unresolved.’”

AB: (laughs).

SS: “Um, I have brought forward all the records that the GAO could find. I have brought forward an explanation of what I asked them to look for *that they can’t find (!)* And, as I said, people can form their own conclusion.

And some people will say: 'This is, ah, an understandable mistake and that's all there was to it when the records [were] destroyed.'

Others will say: 'Ah, it's part of a continuing government conspiracy not to tell peop- ... not to tell the public about Roswell.'

I can't resolve that. All I can do is make the GAO report available as I promised to do, and people can come to their own conclusion."

AB: "All right."

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AB: "Onward, um, I guess, we ... you know, it stops where it stops until somebody figures out how to go further with this."

SS: "Well, and ... and ... there's a possibility that can happen.

The GAO told me that about twenty (20) members of Congress had registered requests with them for, ah, copies of the report when ... when it was available."

AB: "Umm-hmm."

SS: "And, ah, I was just ... therefore a number of members are ... are already showing interest and they might have a suggestion."

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Aud: "Congressman, I first want to applaud you for your tenacity in ... in, ah, approaching any of these issues, ah, especially the Roswell one.

The thing that I really wonder about is: 'Does your inquiry have to stop where it is at this point?'

I mean, assuming that something did crash and they're withholding information, I can't see that they would just throw the parts away after a while, so they must be somewhere in some warehouse being guarded by someone.

And so I would assume somebody still knows about it."

AB: "All right."

SS: "Well first, thank you for that compliment.

As indicated earlier, when I first was asked about the Roswell Incident and decided to get involved, I took a deep breath."

AB: "Hmpf."

SS: "Because obviously it was a subject matter that at least potentially, ah, opened up anyone for ridicule.

My view is people have a right to information on any subject and ... and not subject to someone else's arbitrary view of whether it's important or not.

To answer your specific question, the ... the GAO is unable to find any other records, um, and they have ... they've said they've exhausted all the possibilities they have.

And so, when you say: 'Is there something and is it being guarded somewhere, I ... I can't prove a negative. I can't say something isn't the case.

Um, I can only say that the GAO I think did a, ah ... ah, very thorough search for records. And as I've indicated, perhaps the most important thing they found were destroyed and no one can tell you why or by whom. But that's where we're at.

So I can't ... *if there's something still in existence, there is no paper trail the GAO can find to lead ya there.*"

AB: "Seems to me there are some things we're never gonna know about.

I said the other day on the air: 'If somebody *today* came up with a film showing a rifleman on the grassy knoll taking his shot at Kennedy, it would be just one more piece of evidence for people to doubt.

It's like the Roswell [Alien Autopsy] film – really anything can be done, faked, ah, it can turn up to be a fraud, and after a while – like with the Kennedy Conspiracy – they've become so much that if the absolute truth were presented, ah, by somebody, ah, such as yourself, who stood up on the Congressional floor, it would be just one more theory."

SS: "Well, the Roswell Incident now is getting near fifty (50) years old."

AB: "Right."

SS: "And it's hard to believe that this will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The GAO report shows what ... what they could come up with which you've described accurately. It's one more piece of information that still leaves people I think pretty much believing what they believed before."

AB: "Exactly!"

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