

8-64 Memos, Copies, Misc



# MEMO

TO: Dr. H.E. Puthoff  
FROM: I. Swann, Consultant  
SUBJECT: Work report

DATE: 15 April 1984  
LOCATION: SRI, NY  
CC:

1. The following constitutes a report on the overall work achieved in the training program 1 January through 30 March.
2. Beginning with 1 January 1984, a great part of the training program was moved to SRI NY. Prior to the commencement of work, and with regard to obtaining appropriate rooms at the NY office, considerable upset was experienced, leading to a small delay in beginning the work which might have begun two months earlier. Eventually, however, the rooms were secured. Because of confusions between SRI office management and the contractors in the building, it became necessary for me to engage a separate contractor to complete the changes desired by the client. Finally, during the week of January 14, the painting, installation of appropriate lights, etc., was completed.
3. The NY rooms were designed to be a duplicate of those chambers designed at SRI. Certain smaller changes were made. The walls are a slightly different color; the lights in the viewing room are of "full spectrum" quality; and a good negative ion generator was placed in that room. As a result, all the trainees claim that this set up is nicer than the one at SRI, indicating that these small changes configure to help establish an even more optimum (psychologically) environment than that at SRI. Since we have great interest in just what kind of environment the trainees can most competently exercise the benefits of their training, these comments are given for the record.

4. S4 training completion: The client preselected trainee (TM) who began S4 training during the second week of December 1983, completed the requirements of S4 on 22 March 1984. As you are aware, this is the first opportunity that we have had to train another candidate on the materials that we believe comprise S4. Because of this, I was very careful to monitor the daily reports and to oversee his progress during training with particular attention to determining whether or not our designed materials for S4 were a natural increment on the other stages we have managed to isolate.

5. While I did expect to encounter some difficulties, in fact none at all were encountered. With the possible effects of the upsets acquiring the rooms initially (which the trainee surmounted with great elan, due, probably to his own abilities at maintaining productive poise in the midst of difficulties), the S4 work progressed without faults and without any upsets at all. The cumulative progress of the S4 training is to be found in the trainee's own daily reports, copies of which will be forwarded to you shortly.

6. Originally, I had estimated 8-10 working weeks, with appropriate rest and consolidation time interspersed, for completion of a S4 training series. The completed S4 training of this particular trainee falls well within this estimate.

7. As you know, the simulated sites selected for S4 training are of a complexity that is such that the trainee must access information that would not generally be available to him if he were actually viewing the site from the physical characteristics made available through our S1-S3 techniques. Thus, these selected simulated sites

are those of considerable complexity. This particular S4 trainee used up 31 simulated training sites, the last seven of which led to accurate descriptors of the site's major functions, as well as to other particular and associated site-information. Judging against the strict standards that I believe should be imposed, then this trainee arrived at the culmination of S4 with a particular excellence.

8. As you are aware, the usefulness and workability of S4 can not and should not be predetermined within our own competency. The trainee and the clients were, therefore, requested by myself in advance of the training to quickly have this trainee produce work in their own house that might or might not quickly establish the efficacy of the training here. To my understanding, this has already been done or is in process, and the comments I have heard are positive.

9. I believe it is appropriate here to comment overall on the character and nature of this particular trainee (TM). I recommend that we forward to the client our congratulations on this product of their selection methods, which are, apparently, excellent. In all instances, and even under certain project hardships, this trainee exhibited what can only be rated as high and professional demeanor throughout. He was able to apply himself at all times with the utmost of intellectual accuracy to all the tasks and training drills that were encountered. He was able to perform even all the tedious drills necessary, to maintain his performances within the standards that have been inbuilt into the training model, and, finally, to emerge at the other end of the training with new and consolidated aptitudes. While we do not, of course, yet have enormous numbers from which we might draw comparisons, it should be stated to the client that in the case of this trainee, he exhibited the least of

difficulties, if we compare his performances to those few we have, including my own. In addition to his professional poise, this trainee was, as a person, always considerate of the problems at hand, and a pleasure to interact with. I believe that these traits, although not uncommon, yet are rare enough, especially in our field which has a history of demonstrated antagonisms, personality clashes and unwillingness to comprehend the subtle natures of esp and psi, that this trainee must in some form constitute an ideal model for future selection procedures.

10. New trainees: As of January 1984, four new client preselected trainees embarked on the difficult training procedures of S1, phase 1. The first two weeks were held, at the client's request, at SRI Menlo Park. Due to the importance of four selected, highly intelligent and qualified individuals incoming as a group, I took the opportunity to redeliver all the lectures in person, with a view to tightening up the overall procedures.

11. Each of the four new trainees (CC, BR, PS and ED) exhibited from the outset great interest and enthusiasm for the work to be undertaken, and this interest only grew as they began to become familiar with the implications implied by the training sequences. From the outset, no problems have been encountered and the work at the SRI office has proceeded in quietude and peace. These trainees are invited, as is usual, to comment on the daily procedures in their daily reports.

12. Each of the four trainees has since completed S1, phase 1, and are embarked on phase 2. As we are all now aware, S1 is probably the most difficult of our designed stages, due mostly to the fact that in addition to understanding the mental processes involved, the trainees must for the first time in their experience bring them also into objective use. The following chart illustrates the beginning, completion and number of simulated sites required for each trainee:

	Start	Completion	Sim-sites used
CC	19 Jan 84	27 Feb 84	26
BR	"	29 Feb 84	26
PS	"	22 Mar 84	48
ED	"	27 Mar 84	49

With regard to the above statistics, it is clear that two trainees consumed more simulated sites than the other two. It is natural to interpret this fact as meaning that two had a harder time of it than the other two. This interpretation is to be definitively discouraged. The difference in the amount of simulated sites necessary only reflects that before consolidation of the new and emerging aptitude, a greater "noisy" period was encountered. It has been my overall experience as training monitor to find that each trainee is different, and that each trainee will experience a "bulky" noisy sequence somewhere in the training line; and that this major noise will not always occur at the beginning of S1. Within the training procedures as we understand them, therefore, whether one person uses up numerous or few sites during the course of any given training sequence means nothing at all. Since we can monitor the progress through the learning curve, we can anticipate the "turn over" into consolidation and thus the emergence of a new level of ability. Each of the four new trainees performed therefore along the lines of our expectations, and did so admirably.

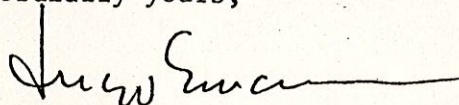
13. Each of these new trainees is considerably different from the rest, but all have several things in common: an apparently high intelligence, a quick grasp of fundamentals, diligence in pursuing the repetitive training tasks necessary, and, on the personal level, open and pleasing personalities.

14. I should like to take this opportunity to ask you to forward to the client my personal appreciations at this time. It goes without saying that I am gratified they have confidence in the work at hand, and have undertaken the enormous facilities they have in further establishing our mutual goals, and I hope

that my personal appreciation will, at this time, be entered into the written record. In addition, since the outset of all this work was not without its rather enormous upsets, I hope you will inform the client that I am personally grateful at this latter end of the work that they have taken utmost new care to help ensure the peaceful progress of the work at hand. This has not gone unnoticed by myself, and it is due to this development that we can say and see that the work overall proceeds without enturbulation; when, indeed, at times in the past, we had begun to wonder if it ever could.

15. In closing, I wish also to extend to you personally, as well as to the relevant people at SRI, my appreciation for making available the rooms at SRI NY. This has indeed made my life easier, but also it has enabled us to ascertain that the training work can and does have an integrity that suggests it is transportable, and that it can go foward in environments other than those at SRI Menlo Park.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ingo Swann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ingo Swann



# MEMO

TO Dr. H.E. Puthoff DATE 16 August 1984

FROM I. Swann LOCATION

SUBJECT Contractual working days CC

For your information, the following is a schedule of days worked between 1 Jan and 16 August 1984.

As you will note, the days worked and the corresponding workload subsequently required does not correspond very much to our original idea of the time I should spend on behalf of the project.

As, at this time, the project is once more in change and shift, it is probably not the time to arrive at a new design. But eventually I would appreciate it if we might review this situation which is drifting in the direction of full time committment.

## Janurary

3-6	NY	1 S-4 trainee
9-13	NY	"
15	Travel to SRI Menlo Park	
16-20	MP	1 S-4 trainee
32-27	MP	"

## February

1	Travel to NY	
6-10	NY	1 S-4 trainee
13-17	NY	1-S-4 trainee
20-24	NY	4 S-1 trainees
27-28	NY	4 S-1 trainees

## March

1-2	NY	4 S-1 trainees
5-9	NY	Reports and prep. time
12-16	NY	1 S-6 trainee
19-23	NY	1 S-6 trainee, 2 S-1 trainees

## April

10-13	NY	Reports, prep. time
16-20	NY	1 S-6 trainee,
23-27	NY	1 S-6 trainee

## May

7-11	NY	1 S-6 trainee, 4 S-1 trainees
14-18	NY	4 S-1 trainees
28-31	NY	4 S-1 trainees

June  
1 NY 4 S-1 trainees  
18-19 NY Prep. time  
24 Travel time to SRI MP  
25-29 MP 1 S-6 trainee, 4 S-1 trainees

July  
2-6 MP 1 S-6 trainee, 4 S-1 trainees  
7 Travel day to NY  
16-20 NY 3 S-1 trainees  
23-27 NY Reports and moving NY office  
30-31 NY Moving office

August  
1-3 NY Moving office  
5 Travel to SRI MP  
6-10 MP 4 S-2 trainees  
13-16 MP 4 S-2 trainees  
17 Travel day to NY

Total days worked  
as of August 17 124



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TO Dr. H.E. Puthoff DATE 16 August 1984

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13-16 MP 4 S-2 trainees  
17 Travel day to NY

Total days worked  
as of August 17 124

MEMO

To: Ingo Swann  
From: Hal Puthoff  
Subject: Monthly Payments

Date: 9 Sept 1984

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I received a note from Melissa Beers indicating that Accounting made a mistake in sending the check to NY, as they have standing orders not to do that, which she has now reinforced once again.

In our discussion about that, you mentioned that perhaps, so that you would not have to bear the brunt of such mistakes, we should pay you a month in advance at an increased rate to get you ahead of the curve. I wanted to remind you that we have been doing just that. If you will recall, at the beginning of this fiscal year I said that I was going to inaugurate a system to have you paid at an accelerated rate so that we would be ahead on our payments to you for just these kind of reasons. Our records show that since the beginning of the fiscal year (1 October 1983) we have paid you (excluding expenses) at the rate of \$6000/month for 15 days/month, or a total of \$72,000 so far for 180 days of effort for the period 1 October 1983 - 30 September 1984. Therefore, we are, according to your records, ahead by some reasonable amount. In fact, we are obviously approaching a time relatively soon in which we will have the unpleasant task of determining when we should hold back for you to catch up to some extent.

Meanwhile, Melissa is preparing a three-month extension to your present contract as you requested, and it will be mailed to you shortly so that there will not be a glitch as we move forward.

With best regards,

*Hal*

Ingo

FYI

JHP

May 29, 1984

Paul Kurtz, Chairman  
(professor of philosophy, SUNY at Buffalo)  
Kendrick Frazier  
(science writer, Editor, *THE SKEPTICAL  
INQUIRER*)  
Lee Nisbet, Executive Director  
(professor of philosophy, Medaille College)

#### FELLOWS

James E. Alcock  
(professor of psychology, York Univ.)  
Issac Asimov  
(science writer)  
Irving Biederman  
(professor of psychology, SUNY at Buffalo)  
Brand Blanshard  
(professor of philosophy, Yale)  
Mario Bunge  
(professor of philosophy, McGill Univ.)  
Bette Chambers  
(Executive Director, American Humanist Assoc.)  
Milbourne Christopher  
(magician, author)  
F. H. C. Crick  
(Salk Institute for Biological Studies)  
L. Sprague de Camp  
(science writer, engineer)  
Bernard Dixon  
(European Editor, *Omni*)  
Paul Edwards  
(Editor, *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)  
Charles Fair  
(science writer)  
Antony Flew  
(professor of philosophy, Reading U., England)  
Yves Gauthier  
(Exec. Secy., l'Union Rationaliste)  
Martin Gardner  
(author, critic)  
Stephen Jay Gould  
(Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard)  
C. E. M. Hansel  
(psychologist, Univ. of Wales)  
Sidney Hook  
(professor emeritus, philosophy, NYU)  
Ray Hyman  
(professor of psychology, Univ. of Oregon)  
Leon Jaroff  
(Managing Editor, *DISCOVER*)  
Lawrence Jerome  
(science writer, engineer)  
Philip J. Klass  
(science writer, engineer)  
Marvin Kohl  
(professor of philosophy, SUNY at Fredonia)  
Edwin C. Krupp  
(astronomer, director, Griffith Observatory)  
Lawrence Kusche  
(science writer)  
Paul McCready  
(scientist/engineer, AeroVironment, Inc.)  
David Morrison  
(professor of astronomy, Univ. of Hawaii)  
Ernest Nagel  
(prof. emer., philosophy, Columbia)  
James Oberg  
(science writer)  
W. V. Quine  
(professor of philosophy, Harvard)  
James Randi  
(magician, author)  
Carl Sagan  
(professor of astronomy, Cornell)  
Evry Schatzman  
(President, French Physics Association)  
Thomas A. Sebeok  
(anthropologist and linguist, Indiana Univ.)  
Robert Sheaffer  
(science writer)  
B. F. Skinner  
(professor of psychology, Harvard)  
Marvin Zelen  
(statistician, Harvard)  
Marvin Zimmerman  
(professor of philosophy, SUNY at Buffalo)

Dr. Harold Puthoff  
Stanford Research Institute  
333 Ravenswood Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Dr. Puthoff:

On behalf of CSICOP I invite you to participate in a panel discussion concerning remote viewing and the "psychic arms race" at the annual conference to be held at Stanford University, November 10, 1984. Your fellow participant will be Ray Hyman and possibly others to be named later.

We think this topic would provide a lively and informative discussion on an important topic. We sincerely hope you accept our invitation. If you have any questions please call me at (716)-876-1008 or leave a message at our Buffalo office.

Sincerely,



Lee Nisbet  
Executive Director

LN:mh



6 June 1984

Mr. Lee Nisbet  
Executive Director, CSICOP  
Box 229, Central Park Station  
Buffalo, New York 14215

Dear Mr. Nisbet:

Thank you for the invitation to participate in a panel discussion at your upcoming conference.

Since the panel discussion concerns remote viewing vis a vis a "psychic arms race," I must respectfully decline. I do not think that the so-called "psychic arms race," which has been receiving much play in the media as of late, is an appropriate format for attempting to discuss the complex technical and scientific issues regarding accuracy, reliability and evaluation methods, all of which (in my opinion) need to be resolved before the larger issues can be addressed in a meaningful way.

Beyond the above, it is SRI policy (a) to limit discussion and presentation to the standard professional conferences where this type of work is presented to our research colleagues, and (b) to refrain from participating in any forum which tends to take discussion out of the research arena and into the media where it tends to be sensationalized, as is evident in recent press coverage. Only by following these policies does SRI feel it can play its role as an honest broker to provide a sound scientific basis for separating the wheat from the chaff in the claims and counterclaims concerning this difficult area of research.

Again, I thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,

H. E. Puthoff, Ph.D.  
Radio Physics Laboratory  
SRI International

**SRI International**

333 Ravenswood Ave. • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • (415) 326-6200 • TWX: 910-373-1246 • TELEX: 334463 • Facsimile: (415) 326-5512

Just -

I gave him verbal  
OK, & followed up  
with this, as he  
requested. Should  
be OK

Hal



*Copy*

MEMO

To: Mr. Steve Baughman  
From: Dr. Hal Puthoff  
Subject: SRI NY Architectural Efforts

Date: 19 Apr 1984  
Location: SRI MP  
CC: Mr. Ingo Swann

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This memo is to confirm our telcon of this morning, authorizing required modifications of the SRI-NY office space in order to accommodate the special requirements of SRI Project 6600 of the Engineering Division.

**SRI International**

333 Ravenswood Ave. • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • (415) 326-6200 • TWX: 910-373-1246 • TELEX: 334463 • Facsimile: (415) 326-5512

F44  
Hal

MEMO

To: Interested Parties  
From: Hal Puthoff  
Subject: Upcoming NOVA Program on Remote Viewing

Date: 3 Jan 1984

As the attached shows, NOVA science program is planning to air a segment on ESP phenomena, which has some large part devoted to the remote viewing work. As you know, Russell Targ cooperated with the BBC crew who originally created the program after he had left SRI. I had an opportunity to see the BBC version (1 1/2 hrs), which I understand has been cut to 1 hr for NOVA. Generally, they seemed to have handled the remote viewing phenomenon in a balanced, relatively non-sensational manner, with the criticisms and the handling thereof done especially well.

Since we at SRI declined to participate in the making of the BBC film, I should note for the record that in the re-enactment of the remote viewing sequences done at SRI, they apparently got an actor to play my role -- that is not me you see on the screen!

*Hal Puthoff*



**WGBH Educational  
Foundation**  
125 Western Avenue  
Boston  
Massachusetts 02134  
617 492 2777  
Telex 710 330 6887

Mr. Harold Puthoff  
S.R.I. International  
333 Ravenswood Avenue  
Menlo Park, California  
94025

December 27, 1983

**Public Broadcasting**  
Boston:  
Channel 2  
Channel 44  
WGBH Radio  
Springfield:  
Channel 57

**Lowell Institute  
Cooperative  
Broadcasting  
Council**  
Boston College  
Boston Symphony  
Orchestra  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Harvard University  
Lowell Institute  
Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology  
Museum of Fine Arts  
Museum of Science  
New England  
Conservatory of Music  
Northeastern University  
Simmons College  
Suffolk University  
Tufts University  
University of  
Massachusetts  
Wellesley College

Dear Mr. Puthoff,

As you may already know, the NOVA series will be airing a revised version of the BBC HORIZON film, THE CASE OF ESP, on January 17, 1984 on PBS (check your local listings for exact time on your local station). Your work with Mr. Russell Targ is featured on this program and we thought you might have wanted to know its U.S. airdate.

We hope you will watch the program. Have an enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,

Alice Markowitz  
Terry Rockefeller  
NOVA/Acquisitions



# MEMO

TO: Dr. H.E. Puthoff  
FROM: I. Swann  
SUBJECT: Training completions, stage 2.

DATE: 23 October 1984

LOCATION:

CC:

1. All for client preselected trainees have as of this date successfully finished their training procedures for stage 2, both in theory and the necessary practical work.

2. For the record, the numbers of sites necessary for each trainee is as follows. It must be constantly borne in mind that the numbers required do not reflect on the competency of the trainees, but are to be used by us solely for purposes of estimation.

BR -- 19

PS -- 21

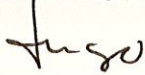
CC -- 18

ED -- 38

3. In general, therefore, we have been able to restore the estimated length of the training program for stage 2 back to something near our original estimates. The various problems that have beset ED have been worked through, and his performance is on par with the others.

4. All four will embark on stage 3 today, with FA present to monitor the theory of stage 3.

Cordially,

  
Ingo



## University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Department of Biological Sciences

25 October 1984

Dear Friend:

Like you, I am interested in parapsychology and disappointed by the rate of its scientific progress. I believe that, to a considerable extent, how fast we advance may be determined by communication, or lack thereof, among us. We need to have information about what is going on and facts upon which to base opinions. While decisions about the field as a whole are often necessarily delegated to our leaders, we need to be informed so that we can choose the best leaders and give them our encouragement.

I think the foregoing is especially relevant to professional matters, that is, to the management of organizational and public affairs in parapsychology. As you may know, I have long favored a greater openness on all problems that have passed beyond the private stage and become a responsibility for all of us.

Because I believe that the quick and proper resolution of differences of opinion in science will be assisted by exchanging information, I am sending you three recent letters dealing with matters that I believe deserve and will receive your interested attention.

The last of these requires an extra word of explanation. "The Amazing Randi" is a stage magician who for some years has made a living lecturing on parapsychology. Mr. Randi is a member of the governing council and is one of the founders of an organization calling itself "The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal." Should you hear of any lectures by Mr. Randi to scientists or engineers that are similar in nature to the one described in my enclosed letter, I would like to be given the details, including the date of the lecture, the name and address of the sponsoring organization, and the name and title of the person introducing Mr. Randi to his audience.

Enclosures:

4 Sept. 1984 letter to the Council  
of the Parapsychological Assn.

19 October 1984 letter to the editor  
of the Journal of Parapsychology.

23 July 1984 letter to the seminar chair-  
man of an industrial laboratory.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "R. A. McConnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "M".

R. A. McConnell

Members of the Council of  
The Parapsychological Association  
September 4, 1984  
Page 2

Levy even when the young researcher openly confessed." Rogo expanded this accusation as follows:

J.B. [Rhine]'s original plan was to give Levy a leave of absence, explain his fraud as the result of a "breakdown," and then rehire him. The plan was not put into effect because other prominent parapsychologists discovered it and persuaded J.B. that he would embarrass himself and the field unless he fired Levy on the spot. In the face of pressure from such prominent researchers as the late J. Gaither Pratt and Dr. R.A. McConnell, Rhine finally acquiesced.

This is a serious charge. It is also an inherently improbable charge, as I shall presently show. Moreover, from my own knowledge, it is a false charge insofar as my purported role is concerned. Rogo continued his accusations as follows:

Rhine's lapse in judgment in the Levy affair is forgivable.... But what happened afterward is nothing less than insidious.

Rhine invited James Terry, a young researcher who had previously worked with Levy, to come [back] to Durham and replicate their much-heralded experiments on precognition in small rodents. If Terry were successful, Levy would be vindicated. But it just didn't work out. (At the time Terry was working primarily as a research assistant at Maimonides Medical Center's division of parapsychology [in New York City] where I was also visiting regularly. We communicated frequently so I know the whole sordid story firsthand.)

In this statement Rogo also accused Rhine of "trying to interfere with research that was bound to place Levy in a poor light" and of then trying to pressure the 1975 Parapsychological Association Research Briefs Chairman "into keeping the Terry research off the program." The nature of the "insidious" and "sordid" behavior with which Rogo charged Rhine was not explained by Rogo, who said merely that:

J.B. didn't want news of any failures of the Levy replication attempts leaking out until a great number of such attempts had been completed and could be reported jointly.

Rogo's commentary is followed on pages 113-115 in Fate by a statement from James Terry in which he says that he spent three weeks at Rhine's laboratory in May, 1975, a year after the Levy exposure, attempting unsuccessfully to replicate his earlier work with Levy and that,

later, despite a previous understanding to the contrary, Rhine refused to allow the presentation at the August, 1975, Parapsychological Association meeting of any research reflecting on Levy's work.

Neither Rogo nor Terry mentions that this work by Terry was, in fact, presented at that 1975 meeting under the title "Levy Replications: Continuation of the Rodent Precognition Experiments" and appears on pages 11-14 in Research in Parapsychology--1975. Instead, Rogo seems deliberately to imply otherwise by saying that the paper was first rejected and then withdrawn (p. 113).

Taken as a whole, Rogo and Terry's statements would support the idea that, having publicly announced in June, 1974, that Levy had engaged in fraudulent research and having explicitly said that all of Levy's research findings were in doubt, Rhine preferred to proceed in a deliberate and conservative manner in publishing later findings bearing upon the extent of Levy's fraud. His purpose could have been to minimize publicity which, by its nature, would in the public mind necessarily tend to generalize adversely to the field as a whole. Contrariwise, Rogo and Terry seem to have believed that maximum exposure should have been given to the Levy affair by stringing out the reports of replication failures, beginning a year after the original announcement of fraud.

The Terry statement is followed on pages 115-116 by a statement by Raymond Bayless of Los Angeles who bears witness to the fact that Rogo had heard rumors of fraud in Levy's spectacularly successful experiments as early as 1972 and that ten months before Levy's final exposure, which occurred in June, 1974, Rogo believed that "accusations of fraud on Levy's part were being commonly spread," and that "unsuccessful attempts had been made to bring these accusations to Rhine's attention."

The foregoing would be consistent with the idea that, while Rhine may have heard rumors of Levy's dishonesty, he refused to act until the case had ripened and strong evidence had been obtained--a procedure that would be followed by any cautious and fair-minded administrator.

In judging Rogo's activities in this matter, Council will need to consider the nature of the magazine in which he published his charges and also his ongoing editorial relation to that magazine.

Fate is a five-by-seven-inch monthly serial devoted to occult and related interests. According to the 1984 Ayer Directory of Publications, its claimed circulation is 135,000. The September, 1984, issue of Fate had 130 pages. Thirty-four percent of the page space was devoted to 278 advertisements. This issue included articles on unidentified flying objects, a poltergeist (by Rogo), and handwriting (subhead: "Can poor penmanship habits turn you into a criminal?").

Members of the Council of  
The Parapsychological Association  
September 4, 1984  
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Advertisements in this issue of Fate had titles or subtitles such as these: "Winning with Witchcraft", "The Gold Cross of Lourdes" (\$10 each), "Pocket numerology calculator", "Jackie's horoscope says...." (full page, with a picture of Jacqueline Onassis, the widow of the late President John F. Kennedy), "The Practice of Magical Evocation" (\$19.95), "Ball-bearing planchettes", "I got rid of my cancer", "Complete correspondence course in Voodoo", "Jesus never existed", "Age Old Chant" (\$6.00). From the foregoing it seems safe to infer that Fate is not a scholarly journal.

Rogo has had a long association with Fate magazine. He is listed on its masthead as a consulting editor. His picture and by-line regularly appear as part of the heading of the "Books, News, and Reviews" section. From time to time, he does full-length articles. However else he may describe himself, Rogo is also a professional journalist.

According to its 1982 Directory of Members, D.S. Rogo is a Full Member of the Parapsychological Association with specific interests in spontaneous phenomena and altered states of consciousness. In 1972 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music at California State University at Northridge. He lists himself as having expertise in the history and literature of parapsychology.

As described above, Rogo has publicly written that I put pressure on Rhine to convince him that he should discharge W.J. Levy instead of giving him a leave of absence. Although it is generally impossible to prove that one did not communicate a particular idea to a now-deceased person on some unspecified date ten years ago, I can say in this instance that I have no memory of any communication with Rhine on the matter of discharging W.J. Levy and that I have considerable circumstantial evidence showing that no such communication ever took place.

It is my custom to save copies of all professional letters and to make and save notes concerning significant visits or telephone conversations with people of importance who are outside my daily acquaintanceship. Hence, if the alleged persuading contact with J.B. Rhine had actually taken place, I would expect to find a record of it in my files. Despite a diligent search, I have found nothing relating to the employment or discharge of Levy.

What my records show is that on June 13, 1974, I was telephoned on her own initiative by Dorothy H. Pope, then co-editor of the Journal of Parapsychology. She told me she had just learned that Levy had been caught faking data by several members of the laboratory and she felt it was important for the field that anyone who might be professionally relying upon his data should be informed as quickly as possible.

Thereafter, on the same day, I telephoned the news to Robert Morris, President of the Parapsychological Association, and to Charles Honorton, a member of the Association's governing council.

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The next day, in the belief that I needed an official confirmation in case I was questioned by a news reporter, I telephoned Rhine. My notes show that he confirmed the bare fact of the discovery of Levy's dishonesty but refused to elaborate or even to tell me the names of those involved in the discovery. Instead, he wanted to know whether I had heard about it from his own people or elsewhere. He said that a statement to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man was in preparation and that I and others would receive a copy--which I did within a week. That statement gave a brief description of how the fraud was discovered and said that Levy had "resigned from all his official connections with the Foundation."

(Upon reading the present letter in draft form, T.K. Clark, who shares my office and is a member of the Parapsychological Association, confirmed from her memory that, after I learned of Levy's fraud, I made a telephone call to J.B. Rhine, seeking confirmation and offering sympathy but nothing more.)

A longer account of the Levy uncovering was published on pages 215-225 of the Journal of Parapsychology for June, 1974, in which Rhine (p. 217) said that "all [of Levy's] experimental reports, published or unpublished, authored by him alone or jointly with others, were to be considered unacceptable, even though there was only one acknowledged instance of falsification."

The most concise account of the Levy affair known to me is that by James Davis (one of the three persons who collaborated in uncovering Levy's dishonesty). It was presented orally at the August, 1974, convention of the Parapsychological Association (two months after the proof of fraud) and appears on pages 11 and 12 of Research in Parapsychology--1974. Davis states that:

...I witnessed Dr. Levy going in and manipulating the apparatus in such a way as to produce the effects that we saw on the [secretly taken] independent record. The following day, we spoke, first with Louisa Rhine, and then with J.B. Rhine, and, that afternoon, J.B. Rhine confronted Dr. Levy with the evidence, at which point he admitted that he had manipulated the data in the manner so described, and promptly submitted his resignation....It is, of course, necessary for all of Dr. Levy's work to be held suspect...."

I remember congratulating Davis for the clarity and forthrightness of his report immediately after its presentation.

Even aside from my failure to find objective records that would support Rogo's position, my lack of any memory of a communication on this matter is by itself all but conclusive evidence that no such communication occurred. I had visited Dr. Rhine's laboratory several times beginning in 1947, but our relationship was never a close one and I had only infrequent contacts

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with him after 1963. Hence, any telephone conversation with him in 1974 about the firing of an employee would not soon have been forgotten.

Moreover, a proposal to condone an experimenter's dishonesty by giving him a leave of absence as ascribed to Rhine by Rogo is in conflict with my sense of scientific propriety. Therefore, I would expect it to remain in my memory if it came from the leading scientist of parapsychology. Nevertheless, I had no memory of that idea prior to reading Rogo's statement prepared for the September, 1984, issue of Fate.

Over the years, young people associated with Rhine have complained to me that he was heartless in discharging employees whom he judged no longer useful in his laboratory. For this reason, too, I would have perceived the soft-hearted action ascribed to Rhine by Rogo to be out of keeping with Rhine's reputation and therefore noteworthy.

For a further reason which I shall now explain, in my judgment Rogo's charge is so inherently improbable that it would have been laid aside by any responsible journalist unless incontrovertible proof of its truth were forthcoming. Rogo says that, although Levy had confessed to falsifying his experimental data, Rhine nevertheless planned to rehire him after he recovered from his nervous breakdown (meaning, I suppose, after the furor over his dishonesty had died out).

The one passion of Rhine's life was to advance parapsychology as a science. The major difficulty of research in this field is to produce the phenomena. It is well known that to do so requires a tranquil and dedicated laboratory environment. Moreover, the question of the sanity of both subjects and experimenters has always been an open one in the minds of many critics of the field. In view of Rhine's sensitivity to the psychological factors in his research, I find it difficult to suppose that he would have considered bringing back into his laboratory a former director who had been forced out because he was either dishonest by nature or had suffered a mental breakdown.

Rather, the question comes to mind as to what motivation would have led a professional journalist who was also a member of the Parapsychological Association, to publicly embrace this supposition? How could he justify to himself an attack in this unsupported fashion upon the memory of the man who, in the opinion of most parapsychologists, had done more than anyone else to advance parapsychology as a science? The only clue I find to Rogo's thinking is his final paragraph (p. 113):

Now that Dr. Rhine is dead, there is no reason to cover up either his handling of the Levy affair or its aftermath. If he ultimately acted honorably, it was only because outside pressure was brought to bear.

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By his research, Rhine gained serious attention for the field worldwide; even while, through his books, he made ESP a household word. To the best of my knowledge, his scientific integrity has never before been publicly questioned. Unless some appropriate counter-action is taken beyond mere retraction, I fear that this unsubstantiated accusation against Rhine will do irreparable damage to the field.

Leaving to Council the consideration of these larger issues, I can only say, in summary, that I have no recollection or record of receiving, at the time, the idea that Levy might not be, or had not been, promptly discharged after the discovery of his dishonesty. Had any such idea been given to me, I would expect to have saved it on paper and to have it in my memory. Thus, so far as I can determine, Mr. Rogo's statement regarding me is false. I shall now present evidence to show that this statement was carelessly or maliciously published by Mr. Rogo.

On May 17, 1984, I received from Rogo an unsolicited letter dated May 15 (copy attached hereto as Enclosure A) in which he disclosed his plan to publish in an unspecified forthcoming issue of Fate a statement by K.R. Rao, along with one by himself, concerning his earlier criticism of J.B. Rhine in the May, 1984, issue of the same magazine. Rogo invited me to submit any comment I wished for publication as part of some future roundup of reader opinion. He enclosed copies of (1) his original review of Louisa Rhine's Something Hidden, (2) K.R. Rao's response thereto, and (3) his own statement rejecting Rao's defense of Rhine. (A copy of the last is attached hereto as Enclosure B.)

Mr. Rogo did not, at any time prior to writing his review of Something Hidden or prior to sending me the above-mentioned letter of May 15, contact me to ask if it were true that I had knowledge of a plan by Rhine to grant Levy a leave of absence and, if I did, whether I had objected to Rhine about it. Since receiving his May 15 letter, I have had no further word from Mr. Rogo.

A comparison will show that there are some changes between Rogo's statement as sent to me privately and that which he later published in the September, 1984, Fate. These changes (presumably made by Rogo or by the editor of Fate) are mainly deletions of words or ideas (1) that suggest a strong emotional involvement by Rogo in this affair, or (2) that, by their removal, make Rogo's accusations more vague and therefore more difficult to disprove. For example, as can be seen in the enclosed copy of what was privately sent to me, Rogo said:

[Rhine] did not immediately fire Levy, even when the young researcher openly confessed....J.B.'s original plan was to give Levy a leave of absence, explain his fraud as the result of a "breakdown," and then rehire him. The plan was not put into effect only [underlined in the original] because other prominent parapsychologists discovered it and started phoning J.B., reasoning

with him that he would embarrass himself and the field unless he fired Levy on the spot. The most pressure came from the late J. Gaither Pratt and from Dr. R. A. McConnell, two prominent researchers. Rhine finally acquiesced.

In the published version (which I quoted near the beginning of this letter) the word "only" was deleted, the words "started phoning" became "persuaded," and the phrasing "The most pressure came from" was changed to "In the face of pressure from."

Rogo's letter of transmittal to me (Enclosure A) was not a request for confirmation or denial of the action he ascribed to me, but was simply (1) an announcement of his plan to publish a statement dealing, in part, with my supposed activity, plus (2) an invitation to me to discuss any aspect of the matter I might choose. Rogo said in his transmitting letter:

After much deliberation, we at Fate...have decided to run Dr. Rao's letter along with my response. We are asking other researchers knowledgeable about this matter to comment....We would like you to respond either to the review, to Dr. Rao's letter, or to my own comments. These will be published in an upcoming issue of Fate in which the entire correspondence column will be given over to this controversy.

In this letter there was no promise to publish, uncut, whatever I might send. Nor was it clear whether the invited comments would appear in the same issue with, or in an issue following, the Rao statement cum Rogo reply. (The antecedent of "These" is vague.) Post hoc, it is apparent that Rogo already had plans to publish statements by Terry and Bayless in the same issue as his own and that he hoped for a supporting statement from me.

I regard this letter from Rogo as a news journalist's attempt to expand an ongoing controversy of his own creation by publishing an unproved and, in fact, false statement about an outside party while offering that party a chance to deny the statement at some time.

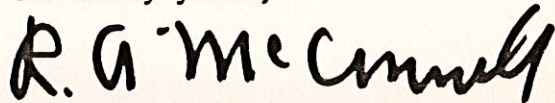
I did not reply to Rogo's letter. My reasons included the following. Despite his clear expression of intent to publish his statement about me, I believed it possible that he was merely applying pressure upon me to confirm or to deny his statement and that he would not be so foolish as to publish it without telephoning me for confirmation. Contrariwise, if Rogo did publish his false statement about me, that fact could be significant in the later public assessment of any evidence for his charge that Rhine had to be dissuaded from giving Levy a leave of absence. Thus, his subsequent actions with regard to naming me could serve as a

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litmus test of his journalistic integrity. As it turned out, such a test is unnecessary because Rogo has published no evidence whatsoever to support this charge.

I assume that Council will decide to investigate this matter. Please call upon me if I can provide further information and inform me as to the final action of Council.

Sincerely yours,



R. A. McConnell  
Member of the Parapsycho-  
logical Association.

Enclosure A:

D.S. Rogo's letter of  
May 15, 1984, to RAM.

Enclosure B:

Rogo's proposed statement  
as enclosed with Enclosure A.



## University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Department of Biological Sciences

19 October 1984

Dr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Editor  
Journal of Parapsychology  
c/o Office of the Vice Chancellor  
Andhra University  
Waltair, Visakhapatnam 530 003 A.P.  
INDIA

Dear Ram:

Have you read Douglas Stokes' review of my book, An Introduction to Parapsychology in the Context of Science, in the March, 1984, issue of the Journal of Parapsychology? If so, I am sure you were disappointed to discover that Stokes' review is inaccurate, distorted, and defamatory. Among other things, he suggests that what I hold as scientific opinion may, instead, be based upon "racism."

This review presents an uncanny parallel to D.S. Rogo's recent attack upon Dr. J.B. Rhine in reviewing Something Hidden. In both cases, someone known as a parapsychologist has used a book review to vilify another parapsychologist by false statement and innuendo. Like Rogo, Stokes' only activity in parapsychology seems to be expressing his opinions. In the last ten years, since leaving graduate study, he has reviewed 16 books for the Journal of Parapsychology and 16 more for the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research. I could find no track record of him as a practicing scientist. An important difference between the two, however, is that, while Rogo is a consulting editor of a popular magazine with an uneducated readership and no scientific pretensions, Stokes is the Associate Editor of the Journal of Parapsychology, which is owned by the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man.

To illustrate the extreme nature of Stokes' review, I shall describe five errors or distortions in the following three sentences taken from his penultimate paragraph:

He [McConnell] calls for the abolition of extensive educational programs for the disadvantaged, and he enthusiastically quotes Cattell's remarks that charity is a "pernicious and evil interruption of group evolution." Worse, he goes on to say that "euthanasia may [eventually] come for both individuals and races; for they need to fulfill their purpose and pass on."...Elsewhere in the book he states that Jacob Bronowski's unfavorable remarks on parapsychology are "especially typical of the Jewish tradition," a statement that only increases the reader's perception that a racist attitude may underlie McConnell's position on the heritability of IQ.

1. The first clause of the first above-quoted sentence is untrue. The only statement in my book remotely relating to Stokes' accusation is on page 306 in Appendix G, where, under the heading, Propositions deserving public examination, I say:

Legislation that attempts education beyond what is biologically feasible wastes money, alienates the intended beneficiaries, and, by lowering standards and wrecking morale, may, or will, destroy the quality of our educational institutions.

I did not "call for the abolition of educational programs." From the information of the preceding paragraph it is apparent that I have advocated the public consideration of a proposition. This proposition deals, not with educational programs for the disadvantaged, but with "education beyond what is biologically feasible." There are many persons who have little money but for whom continuing education is biologically feasible. My statement does not relate to such persons.

2. The second clause of the same sentence contains a distortion of my position relative to Raymond B. Cattell's writings. To say that I "enthusiastically quote" will be understood by most readers to mean "enthusiastically endorse." What I said in introducing Cattell is this (Appendix A, Page 275):

Cattell's perceptions of social morality are so comprehensive and strikingly original as to deserve our consideration. They may seem unassailable in the light of currently accepted scientific principles. How they will ultimately be altered by the findings of parapsychology, I cannot predict.

3. Moreover, this second clause of Stokes contains a quotation from Cattell that misrepresents his position. Cattell makes a distinction between inter- and intra-cultural charity, which Stokes ignores. What Cattell actually said, as quoted in Appendix A, page 277, of my book, is this:

The arresting conclusion from evolutionary law--and one difficult for many to digest--is that natural selection should be allowed and encouraged to act freely among [cultural] groups....Outright transfer of [material] gains from one [cultural] group to another...constitutes a pernicious and evil interruption of group evolution. [The brackets are in my book.]

4. Consider the grammatical construction of the first and second above-quoted sentences from Stokes. "He [McConnell] calls for...and he enthusiastically quotes....Worse, he goes on to say...." There can be no doubt in the reader's mind that the third "he" is the same as the first and second, namely, McConnell. Yet the surprising truth--discoverable only by referring to my book--is that the quotation is from Cattell. Are we to suppose that

Dr. K.R. Rao  
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Dr. Stokes, who lists himself in the 1982 Parapsychological Association Directory as having trained in psychology and mathematics, could have inadvertently overlooked such an egregious grammatical blunder? It appears more probable to me that he worked up such an emotional head of steam that he could no longer think straight.

5. The third sentence from Stokes' review distorts by taking out of context what I said about Bronowski's Ascent of Man and offers that distortion as evidence that my position on the heritability of intelligence may have a "racist" rather than a scientific basis. What I said in Chapter 25, page 268, is this:

in  
Concealed with [Bronowski's] opposition [to parapsychology]  
(which seems to be especially typical of the Jewish tradition) is an in-  
sistence that matters of science and of the spirit must never be allowed  
to contaminate one another. This, of course, is Cartesian dualism.

After devoting much of my book to reality avoidance by scientists both inside and outside of parapsychology, I did not wish to insult the intelligence of my readers by explaining that Jewish culture is especially characterized by respect for science and deep religious faith. Conflict between these can be avoided by mental compartmentalization. Parapsychology threatens that compartmentalization. On the basis of personal contacts, I believe this explains the opposition of some Jewish (as well as some other) scientists to parapsychology.

These examples show five serious errors or distortions in only three sentences from a 2000-word review. When critically compared with my book, Stokes' review is found to be misleadingly derogatory throughout. A reviewer is entitled to an ill opinion of a book, but he must be honest and exact in his criticism. Stokes is neither.

I consider this matter to be of utmost importance. Unless it can be resolved in a satisfactory way, I shall be forced to take the steps you did in connection with the Rogo affair.

What we need to begin with is a forthright statement to me giving your evaluation of Stokes' review. From that we can decide whether there is a shared basis of intellectual and ethical values that will make possible a just and amicable settlement.

Sincerely yours



R. A. McConnell



## University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Department of Biological Sciences

23 July 1984

Dr. Norman P. Goldstein  
Physics Colloquium Chairman  
Westinghouse Research &  
Development Center, Bldg 302  
1310 Beulah Rd.  
Pittsburgh PA 15235

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Thank you for allowing me to attend your Interdepartmental Physics Colloquium on Friday, June 29, to hear a lecture by Mr. James Randi, a professional magician who makes his living by lecturing on parapsychology.

I had never met Mr. Randi, but I heard him in 1982 at Cambridge University, where he gave a paper at a joint meeting of the Parapsychological Association and the British Society for Psychical Research, and again at Fairleigh-Dickinson University in 1983, where he participated in a panel discussion by magicians invited to give to the annual convention of the Parapsychological Association the benefit of magicians' thinking about possible trickery in parapsychological research. On both occasions Mr. Randi was amusing and critical, but he was also conciliatory and reasonable.

It was with considerable surprise that I heard his performance before your group of scientists and engineers. His hilariously vituperative condemnation of parapsychology, consisting of an unending string of one-liners, evoked several laughs per minute. His audience was with him from beginning to end. Whatever else, it was successful entertainment.

From his introduction by you I learned that he lectures regularly to industrial scientists. For that purpose he has spiked his talk with "scientific" jokes. I remember best the one where he said approximately as follows:

"Old Man McDonnell did not want to die until he knew where he was going; so he gave half a million dollars to parapsychological research at Washington University at St. Louis, where Professor Peter Phillips somehow convinced him that "spoon bending" would tell something about survival after death. McDonnell is the man who gave us both psychic metal bending and the DC-10.

The DC-10 is well known to engineers to have crashed after engine-mount failure. The audience roared its approval. This double-barrelled association of metal failure and death was clever showmanship, but was it honest?

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Since June 29, by consulting with people who would know, I have confirmed what I had suspected from my own personal contacts with James S. McDonnell, Jr. The association of (1) the \$500,000 given to Washington University for parapsychological research with (2) a personal interest by James McDonnell in either "postmortem survival" (a topic that went out of fashion in parapsychology about 50 years ago) or "metal bending" it totally false.

On the basis of my knowledge of parapsychology I would describe Randi's talk as a sequence of lies and distortions, of which the most egregious was his statement (approximate quotation): "What I have described to you is the best research in parapsychology. Think what the worst must be like."

When someone asked about research at Princeton University, Randi referred flippantly to Robert Jahn, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, as the "latest glamour boy of parapsychology." Had he wanted to inform his audience, he could have mentioned that Dean Jahn is co-author of a recent report of 300 trials replicating the Puthoff and Targ "remote perception" experiments that appeared in the Proceedings of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers of March 1976.

In retrospect, it is apparent that the Parapsychological Association program committees have been naive in accepting Randi as an honest man. In his talk at Westinghouse he bragged about the good living his lecturing provides. It would not be possible for him to tell the complex, often-disheartening-but-sometimes-inspiring truth about parapsychology and to be paid for it as a magician-lecturer. His audience wanted a hyperbolic circus, and that is what he delivered.

You may ask: What's wrong with a little Friday afternoon relaxation? Do we have always to be serious?

Mr. Randi gives his lectures to closed meetings of industrial scientists and engineers with no opportunity for a rebuttal. His evident attitude is that of a good-natured, self-satisfied bearer of the truth. He may well feel that by this one lecture he successfully closed the minds of 300 of the best engineers in Pittsburgh against the possibility that parapsychological phenomena might be real. Because of the way the world is arranged, his activity tends to prevent responsible governmental and private agencies from funding parapsychological research, regardless of its intrinsic merit.

The objective of parapsychology is to investigate by scientific methods the role of human consciousness in the universe, a subject that has hitherto been the exclusive province of revealed religion. Whatever you may think of the evidence for extrasensory perception, I am sure you will agree that parapsychologists have a worthy objective—and one conceivably of great importance in an age that is seeking new values or the validation of old.

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In a beginning science there is bound to be sloppy, dishonest, or simply questionable research--even more than in established science. And it must be agreed that there has been justified public criticism in some of the cases that Mr. Randi selected for ridicule. To know the nature and implications of that criticism, however, one must go to the serious literature of the field and not to a showman--just as one would go to Science and not to the National Enquirer to find the truth about a scandal funded by NIH.

After giving many years to parapsychology, I may be as well qualified as any other individual to write about the field. As it happens, I published a book in 1983 that deals with some of the cases described by Mr. Randi. I am enclosing a gratis copy of my Introduction to Parapsychology in the Context of Science with the thought that you might care to see what I have to say about S.G. Soal's fraud or about "metal bending" (indexed under Psychokinesis). When you are through with this book, you might want to pass it along to the Research Center's library so that your colleagues can refer to it if they are interested.

Sincerely yours,



R. A. McConnell  
Senior Life Member, IEEE.