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LONG JOHN HUSHED UP WHILE DISCUSSING HUSH-UPS: The article at the left is from the Monday August 24th edition of the New York Daily News. It concerns a flying saucer discussion on the Long John Party Line radio program of Sunday August 23rd. The discussion ended mysteriously when Long John Nebel was cut off the air in the middle of a sentence. Asked to comment on the N.Y. News story, Long John refused to say anything beyond pointing out a few obvious errors: The program begins at 12:00 midnight rather than 12:30 a.m., and two of the names are misspelled - James Moseley, and Jack Keane. It should also be noted that in addition to Moseley, Gray Barker, and Ben Isquith, the morning's panel members included Y.N. ibn A'haron, known as "Yonah".

Long John finished his WOR-Radio show an hour earlier than he expected Sunday morning. The program, which normally runs from 12:30 A.M. to 5:30 A.M., was interrupted at 4:30 A.M. during a heated discussion on "flying saucers" and music filled the rest of the show. Long John was discussing "saucers" with guests James Mozley, editor of Saucer News, Gray Barker, publisher of a recent book, "From Outer Space to You," and Ben Isquith, a programmer for computer machines.

According to Long John, his engineer, Jack Keen, received a phone call from a member of management who told him to discontinue the talk and substitute music. The only reason Long John could offer for the cut was that the discussion "might have developed into something more."

To those of us who were present in the WOR studio, the silencing of the Party Line program came as a complete surprise. For most of the morning, talk had centered around an expose of Gray Barker written for the June 1959 issue of SAUCER NEWS. This is the article in which Lonzo Dove accused Barker of having been responsible for the notorious "hush-up" or silencing of Al Bender by three men in black suits. Also mentioned in the course of the morning was the Howard Menger book "From Outer Space to You", which was recently published by Barker.

Shortly before the program went off the air, Long John asked Barker his personal opinion about the alleged silencing of Al Bender, Howard Menger, and the Mitchell Sisters (two midwest contactees who claim to have ridden in a saucer.) John then asked, "If these stories are true, do you think the...men in black are from this planet?" Barker replied to the effect that he believes they are, but that their peculiar dress and mannerisms were probably more frightening to Bender than the information they conveyed to him.

During Barker's above-mentioned reply, a phone rang in the control room. It was plainly heard in the studio through a door that had accidentally been left open, but no one in the studio gave it any significance at the time. The final words of the program were as follows:

L.J. (to Barker): Has anyone hushed you up?

Barker: No.

L.J.: Did you mention in one of your recent magazine articles about the possibility of hushing Long John up? It was written in one of Palmer's magazines that Long John will be hushed up.....

At this point, music unaccountably started coming in from the control room. It was several moments before your Editor realized that we had been cut off the air, and even then he did not immediately connect it with the phone call. But when Long John excitedly rushed out to talk with Jack Keane, the engineer, everyone on the panel knew that something serious had gone wrong. A chill came over the studio, and for the next few minutes John was quite irritable with several of the people present. The music played on, while we all talked and milled around.

Dave Field, the producer of the show, told me he had answered the telephone and handed it to Keane. They both apparently had recognized the voice on the other end, though they refused to tell me who the caller was. Keane had used his authority as engineer to cut the show off the air without consulting John. As only a very few people know the confidential phone number of the control room, speculation among the panel was that the mysterious caller probably was the manager of the station, the F.C.C. (Federal Communications Commission), or the Air Force. Apparently something one of us had said over the air that morning had caused panic on the part of someone in authority, but Long John was unable or unwilling to clear up the mystery in any way.

After the music had continued for about ten minutes, Long John went on the air to interrupt briefly and say: "Due to circumstances beyond my control, we are going to enjoy more....music.I'll be back with you a little later to say goodnight." Just before sign-off time at 5-30 a.m., John said, "This is Long John again. I'm sorry that we ran into some difficulty and I'll be back with you again tonight, I hope."

To those familiar with saucer lore, this incident will bring to mind the night of January 22, 1958, when Major Donald Keyhoe was cut off the Armstrong Circle Theatre due to Air Force censorship. In regard to the Long John hush-up, our opinion is that a more prosaic explanation may be in order: It is known to your Editor that Gray Barker was one of the very few who knew the studio's confidential phone number. Isn't it possible that, to increase sales of his book about the Bender hush-up, Barker arranged for a confederate to make a hoax phone call to the studio? The fact that Barker will stoop to almost anything for publicity and profit has already been pretty well established by Lonzo Dove. Only time will tell whether this solution is the correct one, and whether the Long John program ever dares to discuss flying saucers again.

Note: Exact quotes from the program were obtained from a tape recording made by saucer researcher John J. Robinson of Jersey City, N.J.

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These Newsletters are non-scheduled, and are issued only as often as worthwhile material is available. Most issues, like this one, contain information that we consider "too hot to handle in our regular issues of SAUCER NEWS.

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