

CBS News interview with author Jim Moore, September 10, 2004

**Rather:** Jim Moore, it's Dan Rather.

**Moore:** Hi Dan, how are you?

**Rather:** Great. Thank you for doing this – I appreciate it.

**Moore:** I'm happy to do it. Anything that gets the truth out on this. It's been my own personal obsession for about a decade now.

**Rather:** I know that and we're all admiring of your hard work and your persistence. It's not easy on these things, as you would know better than most. Okay, Jim, if you're ready to go we are, and I really appreciate you doing it and oh, putting up the white even. Thank you.

**Moore:** Well, the pay is the same either way.

**Rather:** [laughter] Yes, what are you making? Nothing? We'll double it.  
[laughter]

**Moore:** That's it. Ready when you are, Dan.

**Rather:** Fine, thank you very much. We're ready to go.

[Director perhaps] Everybody quiet please. Three, two.

**Rather:** Jim Moore, thank you for doing this. Questions have been raised about the authenticity of this information. Why do you believe that these documents are what they purport to be?

**Moore:** It fits precisely with the information and the events that I know to be true and factual. On top of that, I think it's important to remember that Colonel Killian was a spit-and-shine officer. He had an impeccable reputation. This man was accustomed to people carrying out his orders. Now all of a sudden he confronts a man who is not doing that and I think it's entirely reasonable to assume that Colonel Killian didn't want to take the fall for the bad performance of an officer who was not doing as he was ordered to do. I think it's reasonable to think that Colonel Killian probably built a file to protect himself, to say, "this is something I tried to bring to the attention of the command structure, the command structure didn't listen, but here's proof I tried."

**Rather:** You've studied President Bush's records for ten years. Are these documents consistent with the record as you know it?

**Moore:** They're absolutely consistent with the record as I know it, and everything from in terms of the grounding to the attempt to go to Alabama, the entire timeline is reflected in these documents. There's no doubt in my mind that these documents are stating accurately what we know took place from the records that are available—and one of the things—I think it's critical to point out, Dan, one of the forensic criticisms of these documents is the superscript, the "th" on the ordinal. If you look at the file that the White House itself has released on George W. Bush's time in the National Guard, throughout that file there are superscript "th's" and a number of different references to the 147<sup>th</sup> and the 111<sup>th</sup> fighter air group, so this is not uncommon for this to appear in those documents from the Guard in Ellington during that time period.

**Rather:** While I'm keeping in mind that nobody questioned the documents that the White House put out that had the same or very similar "th" but let me move on here. What do you say about the arguments that the fonts didn't even exist in 1972 and 1973?

**Moore:** Well, I want to point out I'm not a forensic analyst, but it's widely known that the IBM Selectric was introduced in the early 1960s and that it advanced to become the Executive version and then the Selectric Composer and the Composer II, and Times New Roman, the script that's used on this, was available—was invented back in the 1930s, so all of the technology was around and it was possible to create superscript using both the Executive and the Composer versions of the Selectric. And, in fact, those typewriters were marketed to the federal government at the time that this document was supposedly composed, so I think that reasonably fits with what we know about these documents.

**Rather:** Well, the response to the documents came almost immediately and swiftly, but it was also specific. Can you help us put that in perspective?

**Moore:** Well, Dan, I've been watching Karl Rove and his political machinations since 1979. His M.O. is, when you cannot refute the message, you go after the messenger, you discredit the messenger or the way that the information is being conveyed. It is not surprising to me that immediately the White House attacked the authenticity of these documents. In fact, I think it's even more fascinating that before your *60 Minutes* broadcast was off the air, the night it was being broadcast, before it was off the air, on the Internet, on a blog, there was a forensic analysis calling these documents fake. Somebody had advanced knowledge of these documents, they had been leaked to them by someone outside of CBS, in some way the blogosphere was made aware of these documents and they were allowed to do their own forensic analysis and before your program had concluded a criticism began floating. Now the way this works within the Bush Campaign and Karl Rove is the Internet is used to deal with issues that

cannot be dealt with in mainstream media. It floats up from the Internet to conservative talk radio. After it gets into talk radio the pundits begin to talk about it as a kind of cultural phenomenon and eventually mainstream reporters have to begin to talk about it, but in this case it went very quickly from the blogosphere into mainstream media questioning these things and it worked in a much quicker fashion. I think ultimately what will happen is that forensic analysts and other journalist will go back and look at these things and they'll realize that they hold up to scrutiny.

**Rather:** Do you know where these documents came from?

**Moore:** I do not know where they came from, Dan, but I'm fairly confident I know where they came from, CBS or no one within your organization has told me where they came from, but I have been endeavoring to get my hands on a similar file for some time, I've been led to believe that it exists, but I am not a member of conventional daily mainstream media, I'm an author, I'm a guy sitting at a laptop in the hill country of Texas, and so if you're going to leak these documents to someone I'm not the guy to leak them to. But I have had a suspicion for about six months that similar documents exist and I've been trying to get my hands on them and I've not been able to do so, but I think I know where these came from, I'm just not certain of that.

**Rather:** Is there any doubt in your mind that these documents are what they purport to be?

**Moore:** Having not seen them first-hand other than the representations on the Internet, I cannot say unequivocally that I know them to be real, but what I can say is that I know that what they say and the way they say it completely fits with ten years of research that I have done. What I know about Colonel Killian, what I know about the behavior of George Bush in the Guard, what the existing documents say about George Bush in the Guard, all of these things fit together of a piece, and I think as a journalist, you have to reach a conclusion that the evidence that you're getting is verifiable and is trustworthy. Journalists are not forensic analysts. What these people are people who have to question sources, corroborate, crosscheck and independently look to verify things and if I were looking at these documents I would be inclined, based upon what I know about them now, to trust them. I see no reason not to trust them at the moment.

**Rather:** You've spent ten years researching the record. Is it a fact—is it an established fact that a wealthy Texas oilman, well known to the Bush family went to House Speaker at the time Ben Barnes, requested preferential treatment and that George W. Bush got that treatment—is that a fact?

**Moore:** There's no question about it Dan, and in fact, it's more than an established fact, it came out from a statement from the then Speaker of the House Ben Barnes issued a statement during a lawsuit prior to the first campaign of George W. Bush that he in fact did this. Sidney Adger was one of the best friends George H. W. Bush had in life. He was known here in Texas as the Bush family fixer. It is absurd to think that Sidney Adger went to the House Speaker of Texas and sat down and asked for this favor without the Bush family knowing about it. Sidney Adger did not do anything for the Bushes that he did not first clear with the Bush family. Everyone knows the way it worked in Texas back then, it's clear that Mr. Adger asked for this favor and then George W. Bush was jumped over about 100 other people as a minimum by one estimate I was given, up to as many as 500 in Texas who were waiting in line to get into the Texas Air National Guard to become pilots. In addition to that my research shows that there were at least two other pilots who were waiting to be transferred into Texas to take one of the available pilot seats and as you know in these documents that just came out, this is another critical point in that Colonel Killian was asking that this valuable billet, the pilot seat that George W. Bush held at that time, be given to an experienced pilot who was rotating out of Vietnam. Instead it was given to George W. Bush.

**Rather:** I appreciate your time—you're being patient. There are several other questions.

**Moore:** No worries.

**Rather:** Do we know for a fact, do you consider it a fact that Lieutenant Bush, at the time, was ordered to take a physical and he did not take that physical?

**Moore:** I have no doubt that he was ordered to take a physical, that is absolutely a fact that he was ordered to take a physical, and more than that Dan, it is a part of regulation as a member of the National Guard you are required, if you are not a pilot to take that every four years on the date of your anniversary. In Mr. Bush's case that was, I believe, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Now as a pilot he was also required to take that physical under regulation at least once a year in order to make—maintain his flight status. Even if he did not have a direct order from his Commander Killian, which he did, he still was required to take this physical and he refused to take his physical whatsoever and that may have something to do with why he was grounded, it certainly is completely a basis for his commanders to issue—Major Francis Greenleaf to issue the verbal and then the written orders grounding him for failure to accomplish his medical examination.

**Rather:** Mr. Moore, in sum, put it in context and perspective for us, the story and what we'll call the counterattack on the story. Where are we right now?

**Moore:** Well I think what has happened is that some incriminating documents have come out. The White House you should remember has not discredited the documents. They're relying on the Blogosphere and other people to do that because the White House probably knows that these documents are, in fact, real. Now, what's happened is that these documents come out and they have begun to corroborate what people have been saying from the available documents through the years that George W. Bush missed his physical, he defied a command to take his physical, that he did not have permission to go to Alabama, that after he went to Alabama he never reported back to his commanders in Houston other than to ask for a transfer to units that he did not report to, and then there's no proof that he came back to Texas and actually performed any duty. So what has happened is the release of these documents now begins to corroborate what the available documents and the analysts have said all along, that George W. Bush simply walked away from a commitment to the United States Air National Guard here in Texas and that he had made a six-year commitment, and after four years he was disinterested and decided unilaterally not to fly, to no longer go in the air after taxpayers had spent a million dollars training him to fly this aircraft and then he decides unilaterally without his commander saying okay, to walk away. These documents are corroborating what has been said and known by researchers like myself for a long, long time and that's why they are causing the White House a particular level of grief right now and why there is a huge interest and effort by conservatives and people on the right to destroy these documents.

**Rather:** Jim Moore, thank you very much. I really appreciate you taking the time today.

**Moore:** My pleasure Dan.

**Rather:** And I'll be in touch with you later on, but I very much appreciate you doing this. Thank you.

**Moore:** You're welcome.