

**A short excerpt from the book *P.O.V.* by Anthony Zoubek:**

### **WMD IN LITTLETON, COLORADO**

Moore visits a manufacturing plant in Littleton, Colorado. After panning its exterior and a sign identifying the building as “Lockheed Martin,” Moore superimposes a title card that reads “World’s Largest Weapons Maker.”

Inside the plant, Moore interviews Evan McCollum, a Lockheed Martin public relations representative. McCollum stands in front of what *looks like* a giant missile, on the side of which is printed “U.S. Air Force.” Immediately, we jump into McCollum’s answer to Moore’s unheard question.

“This facility, where we are located right now, and two other major facilities where our employees work, are either in or very near Littleton,” McCollum explains to Moore’s cameras. Five-thousand employees who work at the facilities also have children who attend Columbine High School.

“So you don’t think,” Moore asks, “[that] our kids say to themselves, ‘Well gee, you know dad goes off to the factory every day and, you know, he built missiles,’ these are weapons of mass destruction. What’s the difference between that mass destruction and the mass destruction over at Columbine High School?”

“I guess I don’t see that connection,” McCollum answers.

Moments later, Moore explains in voiceover narration that “once a month, Lockheed transports one of its rockets, with its Pentagon payload, through the streets of Littleton, passing nearby Columbine High School on its way to an air force base on the other side of Denver. The rockets are transported in the middle of the night, while the children of Columbine are asleep.”

What Moore *doesn’t* explain is the difference between rockets and missiles. Littleton’s Lockheed plant manufactures the former and not the latter. Moore falsely *insinuates* that McCollum is standing in front of a weapon of mass destruction.

“We do ship our rockets in the middle of the night,” McCollum said when I spoke to him shortly after the movie’s theatrical release. “What [Moore] is implying is that we don’t want people to see these big bad weapons. But they *aren’t* weapons—these rockets are communication vehicles and they launch communication satellites for Direct TV and weather satellites. These are not weapons of mass destruction.”

The rockets are shipped in the middle of the night, McCollum explained, “because these launch vehicles are extremely large. There is a convoy and some 14 other vehicles used to make sure the rockets don’t hit anyone or hit any overpasses or overhanging wires, lights and so on. It would not be wise of us to make that transport during daylight hours when there is more traffic. We do it in the middle of the night, when there is virtually no traffic, to save people grief on the highways.”

Lockheed is “probably the largest weapons supplier in the United States,” McCollum admitted. “I don’t know about the world. But our facilities near Denver have nothing to do with weapons. “The Titan 2 [weather satellite rocket] I was standing in front during the interview was refurbished,” McCollum concluded. “The insinuation that I am standing in front of a weapon of mass destruction is misleading.”

Moore’s producer and wife, Kathleen Glynn, called McCollum and “said she was from a small production company out of New York and that they were doing a documentary about suburban American life,” McCollum explained. “She said they just happened to be filming in a suburb of Denver. ‘We understand you guys are a major employer here, and we saw a news story about a contribution you made to the Jefferson County School District, which includes Columbine, and, gosh, we would really like to talk to you about that,’ [and that alone]. “Moore’s people lied to me to get me to talk to them in the first place.”