

Six Constitutional violations

FDA raids Church of Scientology

There's a smell of conspiracy in the air, of late, involving the American Food and Drug Administration, the British Ministry of Health and the Victorian Parliament of Melbourne, Australia.

It centers around the Church of Scientology, a religion founded by American philosopher L. Ron Hubbard, and incorporated in Washington, D.C. in 1955.

The story of Scientology, according to Hubbard, is a deceptively simple one. (1) A Doctor of Philosophy develops a philosophy

about life and death. (2) People find it interesting. (3) People find it works. (4) People pass it along to others. (5) It grows.

Since its inception, Scientology has expanded to include 22 international organizations, hundreds of franchise centers and a membership in the millions.

Scientology practices involve the precise application of a two-way communication technology designed to free one from emotional upsets and difficulties of the past and to increase one's spiritual

awareness and freedom.

When this happens, according to Scientologists, physical ills often fall away, never to return; emotional problems tend to vanish; IQ's raise; reaction times are bettered; and an individual is happier and more capable as well as emotionally more stable.

The application of this technology involves the use of a device called an Electrometer—or, more commonly, an E-Meter. It is used to measure the body's resistance to a minute electrical current. According to Scientologists, the meter registers the amount of emotional "charge" on an area of communication, and indicates, as the communication process is employed, when that charge has lifted or "blown."

The FDA first made it appearance on the Scientology scene in 1959 when they hired Taylor Quinn as a spy, and enrolled him as a student in the academy of the Founding Church of Scientology in Washington, D.C. to gather information.

On August 13, 1962, Hubbard wrote a letter to then-President Kennedy offering to place at his disposal the facilities of Scientology for use in training astronauts and improving the educational system of the nation. At that time Kennedy requested more information through his regular channels.

This request apparently fell into the hands of the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare's Food and Drug Administration. Within 48 hours, FDA agents had entered every Church of Scientology in the U.S. demanding "evidence" on the E-Meter.

On January 4, 1963, the FDA made a sudden armed raid on the Church in Washington D.C., seizing tens of thousands of copies of Church books, E-Meters and training aids worth more than \$110 thousand, as well as private confessional files.

The raid itself is described in



U.S. MARSHALS SEIZING E-METERS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM CHURCH

the Congressional Record of Sept. 8, 1965, by Senator Edward V. Long of Missouri. "True to form, this recent raid was preceded by intelligence from an FDA spy planted on the premises. . . . FDA agents and federal marshalls descended on private property while local police roped off the street . . . they ran through the premises, banged on doors, shouted and seized what they viewed as incriminating evidence.

"Three particular aspects of this episode were especially shocking. . . . First, the incursion took place on church property. Second, the agents had no valid search warrant. Third, the . . . objects sought and seized were devices used in the church's confessional procedures."

During the raid the agents and deputies (apparently Baltimore Longshoremen's Union members specially deputized as marshalls for the raid) broke into students' and staff's homes in the neighborhood, seizing "evidence," going through womens' purses, and rifling desks.

In the raid, the FDA violated six points of the Constitution, including the lack of a valid search warrant.

In the weeks following the raid, the FDA made an offer to settle out of court. The offer was refused by the Church. When the FDA failed to file any charges, the Church filed suit against the FDA. To date, the case is on appeal and the charges against the church have dwindled to those of mis-labeling the E-Meter.

Yet of the materials seized, not one piece has been returned. And, in addition, the FDA has instituted, via customs, a hit-and-miss seizure of E-Meters being sent into the States and being brought in by individual Scientologists returning from training at the Hubbard College of Scientology at St. Hill Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex, England.

Switch the scene, for a moment, to Melbourne, Australia, 1964-65. In the Victoria Parliament there, a Mr. Galbally, who is rumored to have some rather murky connections with an Australian-government sponsored mental health group, launched a rather vicious attack against Scientology, which

resulted in the government instituting an Inquiry into Scientology by a one-man tribunal, Kevin Anderson QC.

On the 101st day of the 160-day inquiry, Anderson announced publicly the conclusion he had already reached and would later publish. Sworn affidavits of witnesses make it plain that Anderson was biased, vicious and predictably hostile; he intimidated witnesses, suppressed evidence, and—in the words of one witness—"turned the Inquiry into an Inquisition."

The end result of the inquiry was that Scientology was banned from the state of Victoria in Australia. Throughout the rest of the country, however, Scientology has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate.

And, finally, let's look at the scene in England. The Church headquarters and the Hubbard College of Scientology are located in England.

In late 1967 or early 1968, Scotland Yard, apparently acting on orders filtered down through the hierarchy of the government, began an investigation of Scientology, which included phone taps and undercover agents. The investigation yielded no evidence of any kind.

In August, this year, on the last day of Parliament, Kenneth Robinson, Minister of Health (and former Vice-Chairman of the independent but government-financed National Association for Mental Health) viciously attacked Scientology, expressing a "concern for the mental well-being" of its adherents and accusing it of nearly everything short of witchcraft. He promised to produce volumes of evidence supporting his claims.

The next day he promptly disappeared into a country retreat. Before he left, however, he used his influence in the Home Office to close England's doors to Scientologists of other nations. This was accomplished by invoking the Aliens Order, a law designed to be used against individuals, to declare Scientologists as a group to be "undesirable." The aim was apparently the interruption of Scientology activities and study at the College of Scientology.

Scientologists, however, appear to be a rather resourceful and efficient group. Never having been asked their side of the story, they told it anyway: with broadsheets and throwaways distributed by

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hand; with personal visits to members of the press; with a counter-attack exposing Robinson's connection with the NAMH — that organization being 20,000 pounds overdrawn on its accounts and receiving only 2,000 pounds a year support from the government until Robinson's appointment, when there occurred a sudden 10,000 pound grant; and finally, by throwing some light on deplorable conditions in mental institutions throughout the country, including

the use of electroshock treatment, pre-frontal lobotomies and leucotomies as punitive measures, often resulting in death for the patients.

The first Scientologists affected by the entry ban were a group of 60 arriving on a chartered flight from the U.S. In the length of time it took them to be barred from the country, work their way through the bureaucratic red tape, board another plane headed back, and arrive in Los Angeles (less than 24 hours), a contingent of the Scientology Advanced Organization had moved itself—lock, stock and E-Meter—from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Los Angeles, and had set up for business as usual.

Repeated invitations to sit down and talk the matter over were issued by Scientologists to government officials. They were uniformly ignored. On investigation, it was discovered that no minister or government official (other than Scotland Yard undercover men) had ever visited any Scientology Center to look for themselves.

Despite increasingly voluble demands on the part of the British

Establishment press (which since the attack has become increasingly pro-Scientologist) that Robinson produce the evidence he claims to have, to date he has produced nothing. Rather, he has sidestepped the issue whenever approached on it. The ban has apparently been lifted, at least in part, and the net result of the attack is that Scientology membership in England has nearly tripled since the attacks began.

About the similarity of these attacks, Hubbard, Scientology's founder, had this to say: "From all over the world the enemies of Scientology have been able to find only a score or two of complaints about it. May I point out that these few people, about enough to fill a couch, are alive, free and uninjured. Those attacking Scientology run mental institutions. They make millions out of it. They advocate brutal, murderous actions against the insane. They are terrified of losing the avalanches of money gouged out of the governments. They see Scientology taking it all away with kind, effective measures. There is no question in their minds but that Scientology works. That's why they are attacking it. A thousand other philosophies and religions arise every year with no outcry from the madmen in charge. The hundreds of thousands of victims of the enemy, as in all Fas-

cist actions, can not complain. They can not even talk. They're dead."

The most recent harrassment of the Church occurred last Tuesday night, Nov. 19, in Arcadia.

J. Michael Smith, a member of the Church of Scientology of California, Los Angeles Organization, was denied a business license for a franchise center by the Arcadia City Council.

Councilmen Arth, Helms and Considine voted the license down, claiming Scientology was a "Godless religion, anti-government and anti-authority," quoting a recent Life magazine article as the source of their information.

Dissenting Councilman Butterworth and Mayor Hage claimed that "the citizens should have the right to decide for themselves what religion they will follow." Butterworth further stated it was not the Council's right to prejudge Scientology or any organization coming before the council requesting a business license.

There is also a question of violation of the constitutional guarantees concerning freedom of religion.

Smith said, "After what we had to go through to even get a vote on a license, I had already decided I didn't want to open a center in Arcadia."

Three other centers have opened in the Los Angeles area since the Arcadia decision.