

MINNEAPOLIS STAR  
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Scientology

## One-sided Scientology series

To the Editor: The Church of Scientology's response to the Los Angeles Times series recently run in The Minneapolis Star was to immediately file a multimillion-dollar civil suit against the writers of the articles.

An objective view of the articles by anyone who knows a Scientologist could clearly see that the reporting was so one-sided and filled with government unsubstantiated allegations that it could only have been written to justify the largest attempt by the U.S. government to annihilate a religion that has been perpetrated in recent times.

The Church of Scientology has been one of the largest users of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and has received thousands of documents over the last several years that paint a picture of the considerable effort made by various government agencies to attempt to discredit the church through the circulation of false reports, both in this country and around the world. The series of articles from the L.A. Times is such an example, as the writers spent only 11 hours with church members while spending over three months with government and government-related individuals in preparing the story.

The series attempts to play down the campaign run by these various agencies against the church, but the roots of this battle with the government agencies stems from a direct conflict in the basic tenets of the church and the government agencies. This can be seen by the following example:

In 1950 L. Ron Hubbard published his book, "Dianetics, the Modern Science of Mental Health." The book gained wide approval among the American public, as it contained a workable approach toward helping individuals understand themselves more and therefore become happier and more free. This book was a best seller for months and Dianetic groups sprang up all over the country. The government, though, took a dimmer view of the book, and the reasons why were not discovered till a bit later.

Seems that the various governments in 1950 wanted the technology of Mr. Hubbard for their own. The Russians offered \$200,000 a year and Pavlov's laboratories. The U.S. government made similar offers. All were turned down as Mr. Hubbard felt that his work would be perverted if under their control. This proved to be correct, as in the

various governments were hard at work with projects aimed at mind control. In the U.S. these were led by the psychiatric profession, the CIA and other governmental agencies.

In Minnesota the attacks on Hubbard's work started to come after his refusal to play ball with these groups. In fact, the attacks came from the same sources. In 1951 it was Dr. Hastings at the University of Minnesota psychiatric department who led the attack. Later, in 1977, it was found through use of FOIA that Hastings and the university psychiatric department had been involved in mind control experiments, including the use of shock, LSD and other drugs under the MK ULTRA program financed by the CIA. In fact, Hastings worked for the CIA back in the 1940s. Thus it seemed that if the government agencies and those bent at controlling man could not control Mr. Hubbard's work they would fight to destroy it.

From this point, 117 attempts to infiltrate the church have been documented. Many examples of false reports being circulated, surveillance, and illegal seizure regarding the church have been also documented.

The church has withstood many attempts by government agencies and government-connected groups and individuals to cause difficulties for the church, all at an enormous cost and all based on the false re-

ports started and kept in the files of various governmental agencies.

We filed a class action damage suit in 1977 against several agencies, and we will be using the courts to gain access to files that are being withheld from the church even now. We have learned to be persistent and continue to fight back to get all the information on the table so that correct decisions can be made and the church allowed to be represented by what it is rather than by some old falsehood in a file being circulated years after it's been disproved, which has been the case.

The "mystery of Scientology," as The Star's headline calls it, is not because of some hidden data by the church, but is caused by the circulation of false reports that give the illusion that there is something secret about the church. The Church of Scientology has remained constant throughout in its fight for human rights and individual freedoms. We are dedicated to this purpose and our work stands open to all those who wish to view it for themselves. Do stop in sometime and look and see what is here for yourself, as only what is true to yourself is what is true.

—(The Rev.) Kerry Fuller,  
Minneapolis.

Editor's Note: The writer is resident director of the Church of Scientology of Minnesota.