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Scientology Files Seized in FBI Raid Include CIA Data

By David Plke
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The FBI ticked them off, one by one:

"Folder marked U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Agents Directory" and "Folder captioned U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Employment of Psychiatrists. Folder contains raw data report dated 1 April 1974.

"One folder titled 'Locksmith Course' containing numerous manuals and data concerning locks" and "Folder entitled Bugging Devices containing data with cover sheet entitled Excerpts re: Devices."

"One legal size piece of paper depicting Justice Department (and another with an Internal Revenue Service) organization chart."

"Compliance report dated 5-12-77 per (U.S. District Court) Judges Aubrey E. Robinson and Charles R. Richey."

The files were among the hundreds seized Friday by FBI agents who raided the Washington office of the Founding Church of Scientology, according to a 31-page document filed yesterday in U.S. District Court.

For the raid here and a simultaneous search of the church's national headquarters in Los Angeles, dozens of FBI agents used search warrants issued by a federal magistrate.

THE WARRANTS resulted from an affidavit — signed by an FBI agent and based on two weeks of "extensive interrogations" of a former top church official — stating that the church over the last several years has infiltrated the Justice Department and the IRS, has copied confidential government documents through break-ins and other means and, in one case, bugged a high-level IRS meeting.

Church officials late yesterday declined comment on the document listing the seized church files. "I haven't seen the list and I'm not in a position to comment," said the Rev. Hugh Wilhere. "And our lawyers told us not to comment, as these matters will be coming up in court."

Lawyers for the church tried unsuccessfully Friday afternoon to persuade U.S. District Chief Judge William B. Bryant to issue an order halting the search. The attorneys contended that the warrant was too broad and violated such rights as freedom of religion and the attorney-client privilege.

Late yesterday, the lawyers filed another suit asking the court to impound the seized documents and to keep them under seal pending a final determination as to whether the search was legal. Bryant was scheduled to hear that plea late this afternoon.

Earlier yesterday church spokesmen contended "some of the documents that were the subject of their search were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The fact that they were legally obtained and yet made the target of the FBI's police-state raid makes one easily question the full and true motives for the actions of an

THE STATEMENT, charging that "the FBI has clearly sought to try their case in the press by the staging of this event," also contended that it was the government that has infiltrated and harassed the church for perhaps as long as 20 years.

The statement contended, for example, that an "undercover agent" of the Food and Drug Administration in the late 1950s had infiltrated the church here, posing as a member, in order to obtain information on the E-meter, a device resembling a lie detector. The FDA was investigating whether the church was making fraudulent medical claims for the E-meter, which the church argued was a legitimate device that helped members identify past traumas and achieve self-fulfillment.

In a related development yesterday, five church members responding to subpoenas from the U.S. Attorney's Office here appeared briefly before a federal grand jury. According to various sources, the five were to be fingerprinted in a move related to the seizure of the documents, which reportedly were removed by FBI agents wearing gloves.

The grand jury investigation is seen as the second phase of the government's probe, following what one source said was a "very satisfactory" search for copies of stolen government documents on Friday.

The FBI document listing items seized in the search contains no comments and only the most terse description of most of the files involved. It lists numerous internal church memos, letters and directives dealing mainly with government agencies that have been investigating the church for a number of years, including the IRS and Justice.

THE DOCUMENT lists "reports" and "data estimates" of 10 of the 15 federal judges here — Bryant, Robinson, Richie and John J. Sirica, George L. Hart Jr., Howard F. Corcoran, John H. Pratt, June L. Green, John Lewis Smith Jr. and Oliver Gasch — and D.C. Superior Court Judge George H. Goodrich.

Court sources said they thought all three judges have at one time or another handled cases involving the church, mainly FOIA cases against the government agencies that have investigated the church over its tax-exempt status and other matters.

One document is a "Folder entitled 'Gasch, Oliver' containing (a. One letter with enclosure dated 28 October '72 re: Oliver Gasch - John J. Sirica connection. (b. document entitled Oliver Herman Gasch, 1906 through January 1967." In its search warrant, the FBI had said it was seeking copied, stolen letters to and from Gasch dating back to the 1950s, when he was U.S. attorney here.

Also listed is a folder on Nathan Dodell, the assistant U.S. attorney who is handling the church's FOIA cases here for the government. The FBI affidavit had contended that Dodell's office in the federal courthouse here had been broken into four times last year by two men — Gerald B. Wolfe, a former church member and IRS clerk-typist who pleaded guilty last month in the break-in case, and Michael Meisner, the top church official who said he recently escaped "house arrest" by the church and now is cooperating with the government.

The Dodell file, according to the FBI list, includes a report beginning "a time track on Nathan Dodell" and "biographical data on him," several letters about or from Dodell, and "one investigative report re Possible Attack — rumor from Solicitor General