

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
Mar 28, 1978

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

FBI/DOJ

Attached article from the "New York Times" dated 3/24/78 discussed in part FBI investigation of Church of Scientology (COS) and "raids" carried out by FBI against COS properties in Los Angeles (LA) and Washington, D. C. (WDC).

FBI has never conducted an investigation of COS other than the criminal investigation involved here. The search warrant which resulted in FBI searches of COS properties in WDC and LA during July, 1977, was issued after full and complete discussion and review by U. S. Attorney's (USA's) Office, WDC, FBIHQ, and ranking Department of Justice (DOJ) officials. After execution, the search warrant was subject to additional judicial review by U. S. District Court (USDC), WDC, Court of Appeals, WDC, and U. S. Supreme Court. Only USDC, WDC, held the warrant to be invalid as a "general warrant." Court of Appeals, WDC, disagreed with this ruling as did U. S. Supreme Court when it refused to grant certiorari sought by COS.

Execution of the search warrant in LA required use of approximately 130 Special Agents (SAs) based on the logistics problem involved. The 2 COS properties searched in LA are 7 and 8 story buildings, each containing many rooms. In fact these 2 searches took 16 and 19 hours, respectively, to complete. All the searches were resisted to some extent by COS representatives at the scene. Prior to one search in LA our personnel gave COS representatives almost 2 hours to produce keys. After the 2 hours elapsed, locked doors were broken to effect entry. A similar situation was faced during the other search in LA. Failure of COS representatives to respond to FBI requests for entry at the time of the search in WDC required use of a carbide disc saw to gain entry to premises. In each search, our personnel acted in a professional manner and no harassment or action not justified under the circumstances took place.

Search warrant was obtained by relying in part on information from [redacted]

[redacted] our action in obtaining and executing search warrant has been subjected to USA, Departmental and FBIHQ scrutiny and except for the normal complaints of those involved as possible defendants and others who do not have all the facts, no criticism of our action in this purely criminal investigation has a basis in fact. These searches resulted in seizure of 20,000 documents, some classified, involving at least 8 Government agencies, including [redacted]

1 - Mr. Adams

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-6-82 BY [redacted]

APPROVED:

Director [redacted]

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_

Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_

Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_

Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_

Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_

Training \_\_\_\_\_

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per Court Order

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ADDENDUM

3/29/78

It should be noted that the search warrant was based on information provided

[REDACTED]

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Prior to the execution of the search warrant, SAC, Los Angeles, recommended against this action in view of the potential of adverse publicity without securing the approval of Director Kelley and Attorney General Bell. Director Kelley approved the execution and U. S. Attorney, Washington, D. C., following discussions with the Counsel for the Attorney General, secured appropriate Departmental authorization to proceed with the execution of the warrant.

APPROVED:

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Soc. Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

*JMA*

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_

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- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

# Move by Court and in House Underline Issue of F. B. I. Curbs

By ROGER WILKINS

Founded in 1954

Two disparate events in Washington this week serve to underscore an issue that is of abiding concern to millions of Americans: How is the nation to control the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

The Church of Scientology, which claims three million members in the United States and six million worldwide, was founded in 1954. Its teachings have run counter to some firmly held secular professions, such as medicine and psychiatry. According to one of its public documents, the church holds that thought "is considered as a mode of spiritual energy which is not part of the physical universe . . . This . . . life force is a static, according to the Axioms of Scientology; a motionless Ground of all being."

The first event, on Monday, was a denial, without dissent, by the Supreme Court, of a petition for a writ of certiorari filed by the Church of Scientology. The writ sought a review of a decision by the United States Court of Appeal for the District of Columbia that turned down the church's challenge to F.B.I. raids on some of its properties last summer.

"I'm not sure I've got all their beliefs firmly in mind," Philip Hirschkopf, one of the church's lawyers said in an interview the other day, "but their beliefs are different from yours and mine. And, the important thing is that these are American citizens holding sincere religious beliefs."

According to witness reports, 30 agents were involved in the Washington raid and 130 in the Los Angeles raid. Although Federal law requires that reasonable opportunity be given for people to open up the searched premises, the agents came through the door in the Washington church with a chain saw, destroying it. Photographs show other serious damage inside the properties.

The second event was the appearance by the new F.B.I. Director, William H. Webster, before the House Judiciary Committee to seek to justify the bureau's portion of the Department of Justice's authorization for funds for the next fiscal year. It was the first such appearance by an F.B.I. Director and it was required as a result of legislation sponsored a few years ago by the chairman of the committee, Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey.

The church has been active in opposing Government policies in areas that have conflicted with its beliefs. Its efforts in social reform have ranged from active opposition to apartheid in South Africa and the official United States posture toward that country to the Food and Drug Administration's policies and procedures in approving new drugs for the consumer market. All this activism, according to Federal documents supplied by the church has elicited extraordinary Government interest, from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Air Force to the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice and the F.B.I.

The agents removed two cardboard boxes of documents from the Washington church and more than 100,000 papers from the Los Angeles churches, according to Mr. Hirschkopf. He said that the Government had conceded in "open court" that at least one half of the material was irrelevant.

The requirement for the bureau to justify its program annually before the Judiciary Committee is viewed by many who have been concerned by past excesses in F.B.I. policies and practices as a significant advance over Congressional oversight procedures followed in earlier years.

Both the ferocity and the breadth of the raids disturb civil libertarians. "Sure they're unpopular with the Government and they're litigious," said Mr. Hirschkopf, who is also a longtime board member of the American Civil Liberties Union, "but does that justify an overly broad search warrant and all that violence?"

Seasoned Justice Department observers remember the next-to-last time when the authorization process was not required and the bureau could usually count on a sympathetic appropriation subcommittee, headed by the late Representative John J. Rooney of Brooklyn, to restore any cuts in the budget that the White House had attempted to impose.

Aside from a statement of "probable cause to believe" that an F.B.I. raid would find stolen Government documents at the church's headquarters, the Government's reason for its interest has never been entirely clear.

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_ 14
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

The results of Mr. Rodino's effort to introduce firmer Congressional oversight will be watched closely by those who favor bringing the bureau under control, because they believe that, despite some of the reforms instituted under former Attorney General Edward H. Levi and the former F.B.I. Director, Clarence M. Kelley, the agency is still prone to excesses.

But, according to an F.B.I. affidavit that served as the basis for the warrants to search the church properties, the Scientologists did not take such Government interest passively. Some of them obtained jobs in key Government agencies and began Xeroxing and taking copies of documents dealing with the church, it was said.

Date 8/19/77

Their main support for these contentions were the raids carried out—simultaneously on July 8, 1977 against two Church of Scientology properties in Los Angeles and one in Washington, D.C., to find stolen Government documents. These raids brought indignant condemnation from such disparate political observers as Mary McGroarty and James J. Keppatrick. Despite that broad coincidence of views, the case is not a simple one and some background about the church and its activities serves to illuminate the issues raised by the raids.

When the Department of Justice came into possession of this information, it presented to a Federal magistrate an affidavit that a special agent, Thomas B. Coll, termed "probable cause to believe that evidence of the crimes of theft of Government documents" would be found at the church properties. There were no allegations that the Scientologists were violent or that guns or bombs were inside the properties.

The Department of Justice obtained the warrants in the early morning hours of July 4, 1977, held them for four days, and then on July 8 at 9 A.M. in Washington and 6 A.M. in Los Angeles coordinated raids were launched by the F.B.I.

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