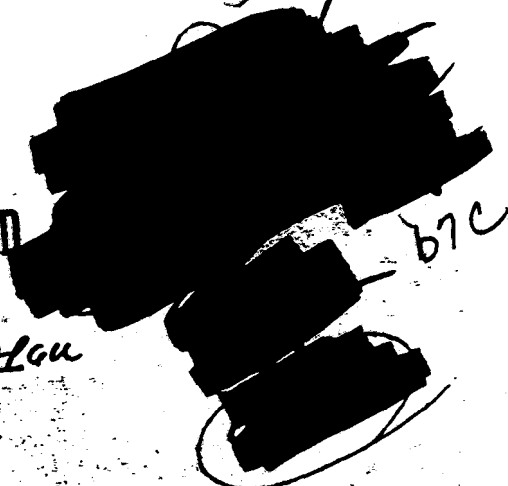


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SCIENTOLOGISTS
BY JAMES H. RUBIN
WASHINGTON (AP) -- NINE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
PLEADED INNOCENT TODAY TO CHARGES THAT INCLUDE STEALING GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS AND PLANTING EAVE-DROPPING DEVICES IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE GEORGE L. HART JR., SAID THE CASE DOES NOT
REVOLVE AROUND THE ISSUE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AS OFFICIALS OF THE
CHURCH CONTEND.

"THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY IS NOT ON TRIAL HERE," HART SAID AT
THE ARRAIGNMENT. "THERE WILL BE NO REFERENCE TO RELIGION. IT HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT STEALING (DOCUMENTS)
THAT'S A SIMPLE CHARGE. IT'S LIKE THEY WENT INTO A BANK AND TOOK
MONEY."

A 42-PAGE INDICTMENT ANNOUNCED TWO WEEKS AGO ACCUSED 11 LEADERS
AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF BREAKING INTO GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
STEALING CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, PLANTING BUGGING DEVICES AND IN
SEPARATE BUT RELATED CHARGES OF OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE AND LYING TO
GRAND JURY. THE MOST SERIOUS CHARGES CARRY MAXIMUM PENALTIES OF FIVE
YEARS IN PRISON AND \$10,000 FINES.

THE NINE DEFENDANTS ARRAIGNED TODAY WERE MARY SUE HUBBARD, THE
WIFE OF THE CHURCH'S FOUNDER, AND EIGHT CHURCH MEMBERS FROM
CALIFORNIA. THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO EXTRADITE FROM ENGLAND TWO
OTHER DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE.

HART GRANTED THE DEFENSE UNTIL NOV. 20 TO FILE PRETRIAL MOTIONS.
LAWYERS FOR THE DEFENDANTS HAD SAID THEY NEEDED EXTRA TIME TO PREPARE
FOR WHAT THEY SAID WAS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX CASE INVOLVING THOUSANDS
OF DOCUMENTS SEIZED BY THE FBI IN RAIDS LAST YEAR ON CHURCH
FACILITIES IN LOS ANGELES AND WASHINGTON.

LEONARD BOUDIN, WHO IS REPRESENTING MRS. HUBBARD, ASKED THAT HART
BE TAKEN OFF THE CASE AND REPLACED BY JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT, WHO
HAS BEEN PRESIDING OVER A CIVIL SUIT INVOLVING THE CHURCH.

HART GAVE NO INDICATION HE INTENDED TO REMOVE HIMSELF.
BOUDIN SAID THE CHURCH INTENDS TO BASE ITS DEFENSE IN PART ON
CHARGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN OF
HARASSMENT AGAINST THE SCIENTOLOGISTS FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS.

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