

EAST GRINSTEAD OBSERVER

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SCIENTOLOGISTS LOSE CLAIM FOR RETURN OF PRIVATE DOCUMENTS

A CLAIM by the Church of Scientology against the Licensed Victuallers Association and a London solicitor for the return of confidential documents was dismissed at East Grinstead County Court on Thursday.

It was said that the documents which were valued at £5 were used by Mr. William Frederick Pope, solicitor, of Upper Brook Street, London, W.1., on behalf of the Caterham and Godstone branch of the L.V.A. in objecting to the transfer of the licence of the Apsley Arms, Dormans Land, to the former director of scientology publications, Mr. Calvin Wigney.

'CONDUCT OF LIFE'

Mr. Warden Swinfen, for the Church of Scientology, told Judge F. K. Glazebrook that the organisation was the British part of an international organisation which was devoted to disseminate the principle of scientology, which was partly a religious belief and partly a philosophical one. It was a belief which based its tenet on the conduct of life.

'It has been the victim of a certain amount of vilification and certain actions are being taken elsewhere to recover its position,' said Mr. Swinfen.

He said the claim arose through an application for the transfer of a Justices licence for the Apsley Arms Hotel, Dormans Land, by Mr. Calvin Wigney. Mr. Wigney gave up his paid position at Saint Hill Manor as director of scientology publications in East Grinstead, where his principal duty was to procure printing of documents, not to prepare them.

On October 27 last year Mr. Wigney made his application at Oxted Court where Mr. Pope was instructed by the

Caterham and Godstone Licensed Victuallers Association to object on the grounds of Mr. Wigney's connection with scientology,' said Mr. Swinfen.

'Mr. Pope handed to the Bench a number of documents which Mr. Wigney recognised. Some were confidential documents, relating to the internal security and administration of the scientology organisation, which had no right to become public property

'Also he produced a copy of the public inquiry held in the State of Victoria, Australia, where the organisation is outlawed.'

Mr. Swinfen said Mr. Wigney had told the Oxted Court that he wished to become a full-time licensee which he now was after ceasing work with the organisation last November.

'When he was cross-examined by Mr. Pope, Mr. Wigney said he had no further connection with scientology. He and his wife were "clear" in terms of scientology and he wished to buy the hotel as a business proposition and had no intention to trap or ensnare anybody.'

'CLEAR' EXPLAINED

Mr. Swinfen explained that 'clear' meant Mr. Wigney and his wife had successfully undergone the training courses run by the scientology organisation.

He added that the hearing was adjourned to November 7, when the application was granted and various documents returned to Mr. Pope by the court. Since then Mr. Swinfen's clients had no idea what had happened to them.

'It is claimed that either one of the defendants, or both, are in unlawful possession of legal documents which are being

unlawfully kept by them,' continued Mr. Swinfen.

At this point Judge Glazebrook told him that to proceed with the claim he must prove that his clients' demand for the documents had been refused.

Mr. Swinfen—We have no means of proving this at this moment. There has been no correspondence between the parties.

Mr. Lawrence Stevens, for the defendants, said the documents were no longer in the possession of either defendant. In the case of one they had never been. In view of what Mr. Swinfen had said he asked for the action to be dismissed.

Striking out the claim, Judge Glazebrook awarded £13 costs to Mr. Stevens on behalf of the two defendants, Mr. Pope and Mr. Douglas Tizzard, of the Tally Ho, Caterham, chairman of the Caterham and Godstone Licensed Victuallers Association.

1967
Daily Mail



MR. HUBBARD

DEMAND FOR BAN ON CULT

Mirror Reporter

LONDON, Sunday.—The pseudo-psychological cult of scientology should be banned in Britain as it has been in the State of Victoria, the Daily Mail demanded today.

The newspaper said the cult was based on the teachings of an American ex-scientist fiction writer, Lafayette Hubbard.

Hubbard had no claim to the university degrees he professed to hold.

The newspaper added: "He is bogus."

Hubbard moved his headquarters from the US and set up at East Grinstead, Sussex, in a mansion previously owned by the Maharajah of Jaipur, a millionaire.

The cult has spread to Australia, New Zealand, Europe, South Africa, Hawaii as well as through the US and Canada.

"Fictitious"

The Daily Mail said in Melbourne when the cult was outlawed there were 4000 personal files on followers in that area alone.

About \$65,000 a year had been sent to Hubbard from Melbourne.

Hubbard described himself as a doctor of science, the newspaper said.

"But the degree was a self-invented, self-bestowed D.Sc.—a doctor of scientology.

"And many of his other claims were fictitious, too."

Last week, the Minister for Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, was asked in the Commons to order an official inquiry into scientology and the practice of psychology for money by unqualified people.

Commons to debate 'scientology'

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

The harm that he believes may be done to some people by the promoters of scientology is to be described in the Commons on March 6 by Mr. Peter Hordern, Conservative member for Horsham.

He and Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Grinstead), in whose area the headquarters of the scientologists organization is situated, have already called for an inquiry into its practices.

Mr. Robinson, Minister of Health, told them in the Commons on December 5. "No further inquiry is necessary to establish that the activities of this organization are potentially harmful.

"I have no doubt that scientology is totally valueless in promoting health and, in particular, that people seeking help with problems of mental health can gain nothing from the attentions of this organization."

Mr. Hordern will base his renewed demand for action on the effect scientology is stated to have had upon a young woman in his constituency. It is understood that the Minister of Health welcomes the chance for the House to discuss the activities of this society.

Scientology has been defined by Mr. L. R. Hubbard, the American who founded the organization, as "a branch of religious philosophy which handles man as a spiritual being in relationship to the universe". Its headquarters used to be in the United States, but was transferred to Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, in 1958.

LONDON TIMES 25 FEB 1967

'Scientology' not to be banned

Mr. Robinson, Minister of Health, said in the Commons on Monday that the Government do not intend to pass a law banning the cult of "scientology" at the present time. Though he agreed with many of the harsh criticisms of the movement made by Mr. Peter Horden and Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Mr. Robinson said there was no evidence to show that "scientology" had been directly and exclusively responsible for mental breakdowns or physical deterioration among its adherents in Britain.

"I nevertheless intend to go on watching the position", Mr. Robinson added. "My present decision on legislation may disappoint members but I would like to remind them that the harsh light of publicity can sometimes work almost as effectively."

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1967

SCIENTOLOGY ATTACKED IN DEBATE

LEGISLATION TO OUTLAW SCIENTOLOGY IN THIS COUNTRY WAS RULED OUT BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR. KENNETH ROBINSON) IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY.

Mr. Robinson said he had no evidence that scientology was strictly and exclusively responsible for mental breakdown or physical deterioration. Nevertheless, he intended to continue to watch the position.

Mr. Peter Hordern (M.P. for Horsham) had called for an inquiry into the organisation which he accused of 'extracting money from the weak and mentally ill.' He said there was no doubt that the organisation was 'totally valueless,' and he referred to its 'evil nature.'

Mr. Hordern said: 'A constituent, a Miss Henslow, who had suffered from depression, was released from hospital in July, 1962, after which she continued to receive treatment as an out-patient.'

He said that she met a Mr. Murray Yudell, a student of scientology. He persuaded her to take a job at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, and there she eventually became a fee-paying student.

In one letter she wrote to her mother she said she was 'being destroyed' and she did not want to be associated with her mother again. Another letter said this was not true.

Last July, continued Mr. Hordern, Mr. Yudell and another student arrived at Miss Henslow's home with Miss Henslow and left her there in a nightdress.

Miss Henslow 'flew out of the house.' She arrived at a police station and remained 'hysterical' until 3 a.m. when she was given a sedative.

A serious view was taken

of her condition,' added Mr. Hordern. 'She has since made some progress, but is still far from being well.'

He went on: 'Scientology is evil. Its techniques are evil and its practice is a serious threat to the community, medically, morally and socially.'

Urging a full inquiry into the matter, Mr. Hordern said: 'The public will not have the protection of the Press once this debate is over because they are likely to be sued for libel if they publish anything about scientology.'

After Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith (M.P. for East Grinstead) had said he would be 'failing' in his duty to his constituents' if he did not welcome this debate, Mr. Robinson said: 'Mr. Hordern's story graphically underlines the implications of scientology.'

'To attempt a definition of scientology is a sterile exercise. Scientology appears to mean nothing more than Mr. Ron Hubbard, its founder, chooses to say it means.'

'At no time has he chosen to give it any meaningful definition.'

Mr. Robinson said the harm which scientology might cause to health gave rise in the early 1960s to 'growing uneasiness'

in the State of Victoria, Australia.

'That was why the Victoria Anderson Inquiry into scientology' said it 'claimed to be the world's largest mental health organisation, yet what it really is the world's largest organisation of unqualified persons engaged in the practice of dangerous techniques which masqueraded as mental therapy.'

Mr. Robinson said he had been told that Mr. Hubbard threatened with libel anyone who quoted from the Anderson report.

The Minister said of the movement, 'They attract those who are weak, unbalanced, immature, rootless, mentally or emotionally unstable and claimed that they would be remoulded into mature personalities.'

He continued, 'One of the leaders had taken the title of "Bishop" and at least two of the staff had been known as "chaplains."'

'Scientology is not merely ludicrous, which would not matter, but is potentially harmful to its adherents.'

Mr. Robinson said that he and the Home Secretary (Mr. Roy Jenkins) had considered very carefully the proposal that a public inquiry should be set up, and an alternative proposal that action should be taken to terminate the 'activities of scientology here.'

He concluded, 'On the question of the inquiry, my view remains that a further inquiry is unnecessary to establish that the activities of this organisation are potentially harmful.'

'There remains the question of whether the practice should be prohibited. My present view is that this would not be the right course to take.'