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Price

High Court costs order against Scientologists

The Church of Scientology of California was ordered in the High Court yesterday to pay the costs of the publishers of three national newspapers whom they had brought to court to face injunction proceedings.

Mr Justice Fisher also ordered that the Church would not proceed with libel actions against the News of the World, Ltd., Beaverbrook Newspapers, Ltd., and Daily Mirror Newspapers, Ltd., until the costs are paid.

At the start of yesterday's hearing, counsel for the Church, Mr Leon Brittan, told the Judge that he was no longer asking for the interlocutory injunctions restraining further publication of the alleged libels.

After a 65-minute hearing in private, the Judge gave permission for his judgment to be published.

He said the Church claimed damages alleging libel in articles in the "News of the World," "Sunday Mirror," and "Daily Express." An application on Thursday for ex parte injunctions was refused. The defendants had filed evidence for yesterday's hearing, but counsel for the church now said he no longer asked for the orders. Accordingly

the applications would be dismissed, and the only question he had to decide was on costs.

The newspapers had asked that the costs of the hearing should be taxed and paid at once. Counsel for the church had not resisted the application, and he would make an order accordingly. He refused to make a special order on the method of assessing costs which the defendants had sought.

The defendants also asked that the proceedings should be suspended until the costs of the hearing were paid. The judge said that one of the church's officers had stated that it was a nonprofitmaking organisation incorporated in California but also registered in this country.

"They are a foreign corporation," he said, "and I have no grounds for being satisfied that the defendants could successfully execute for the costs on property of the plaintiffs in this country." He would make the order accordingly.

The judge said that the order for costs would also be against Mrs Jane Kember, an official of the church, of Challow, Courtlands, Sharpthorne, near East Grinstead, Sussex, in actions where she was coplaintiff.

Mr Hubbard "forgives" \$13M debt, page 2.

Scientology founder says he forgave 13M dollars

Mr Lafayette Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, claimed in a statement issued yesterday that he was owed the sum of \$13 millions by the organisation, and had forgiven it. He had drawn no salary for years.

The statement was one of two from Mr Hubbard issued from Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex, the cult's headquarters. A spokesman said they were received late on Monday night from Tunisia, where Mr Hubbard is believed to be on his yacht. The statement added:

"Even my own income has been invoiced into Scientology organisations.

"I paid for all the research for 18 years, and it is not included at all. All the millions have been

totalled up, and, aside from some cash loans, the balance has been forgiven.

"It is typical of these attacks on Scientology that truth is the other way. It is upsetting to make a 13-million-dollar gift and be hammered for it."

In the other statement, Mr Hubbard says Scientology brought millions of dollars into England "before Robinson slammed the door on students."

"Older practices take millions of dollars from the United Kingdom taxpayer. Medicine and mental groups are paid countless millions while Scientology makes money for the country. Even with medicine free, the people want to pay for Scientology. No wonder older practices are afraid. Authority belongs to those who are getting their job done."