

Clearwater Sun

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Opinion

Sect's charges insult intelligence of public

Heber Jentsch, the international president of the Church of Scientology, seriously underestimates the sophistication of Clearwater residents if he thinks they will believe a word of his diatribe against Boston lawyer Michael Flynn. Jentsch gave a press conference on the steps of City Hall Wednesday to "expose" Flynn for conspiring to bilk the sect of \$2 million.

Flynn, as just about every Clearwater resident knows, has been a perennial foe of the Scientologists. It was Flynn who conducted a series of hearings in Clearwater two years ago that laid bare the exploitation and flim-flammy that has been rife in the sect.

And it is to Flynn that disenchanted Scientologists turn for legal advice and representation in reprisals against the sect.

Jentsch is traveling the nation denouncing Flynn from every soap box he can lay his hands on.

And that conforms to the sect's "Fair Game Doctrine."

The doctrine states, "An SP (suppressive person) may be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without discipline to the Scientologist. (An SP) may be tricked, sued, lied to or destroyed."

L. Ron Hubbard, the sect's reclusive multi-millionaire founder, stated

in a magazine article: "The defense of anything is untenable. The only way to defend anything is to attack."

Sect leaders have followed that philosophy through the years by harassing critics in every way imaginable—from spreading embarrassing rumors to filing frivolous lawsuits.

Under the sect's "Black PR" policy, members are urged to use publicity to destroy the reputation of Scientology's enemies, and they are advised to invent smears if they don't have the facts to back up their allegations.

The case against Flynn reeks of these two doctrines.

Who, for example, is Ala Fadili Al Tamimi? Are we expected to credit the accusations of that "master criminal and con man" (as sect officials style him)? Especially in view of the sect's payment of \$25,000 for his "evidence," observers are bound to be skeptical.

The Jentsch press conference is no great surprise, nor is the "discovery" of damaging evidence against Flynn. What's surprising is that the Scientologists are allowed to continue their sick charade.

Why are law enforcement agencies so lethargic about excoriating this malignancy from our community?