

# New hassle over Scientology book

HIGH on summer reading lists, at least for members of the Church of Scientology, is Bent Corydon's "L. Ron Hubbard — Messiah or Madman?"

This is the book L. Ron Hubbard Jr. was co-writing before the church reportedly paid him \$250,000 to stop feeding information to Corydon.

Corydon went ahead by himself, and Scientologists have been so anxious to get advance copies of his expose about the late church founder, says a spokeswoman for publishers Lyle Stuart Inc., that they were "calling the office pretending to be show producers, book reviewers or bookstore buyers — those kinds of tactics.

"Now that the book is out the phone calls have stopped. They were quite, quite pushy. We became suspicious because they were unlike book industry people, so we'd ask for a name and phone number and say we'd call them right back. When we called, there was never any such person at the number."

A private investigator was arrested in June on charges of attempted petty larceny when she tried to bribe printing plant employes \$100 each to get her an advance copy.

The church "sent a private investigator — the same lady who served me with a subpoena for a different case involving the church — to the printing plant, R.R. Donnelly, in West Virginia," publisher Lyle Stuart told PAGE SIX's Eleanor Terzian-Ciolino.

Janine M. Remarque "approached a worker from the plant and said she wanted to get an advance copy of the book. She'd pay him and his companion \$100 each if they gave her one. They went back to their boss, and he called the sheriff's department. After work, two men met her. One guy was wired, a detective with the sheriff's department, and they said he had the book. She handed each of the two men \$100, and was arrested on the spot," Stuart said.

"She was held about an hour on the attempted larceny charge, and was let out on

bail. The \$200 was kept as evidence. She didn't show up for her hearing . . . I suspect she's a Scientologist, because who else would wait outside my door for eight weeks and two days to serve me with a subpoena in a case in which I was only a witness?" he added.

"I've never heard of her," said Church of Scientology spokeswoman Kathleen Thorn. "The church did not hire her to do what she did.

"Stuart can make any kind of allegations he wants; that doesn't mean they're true. He sure can't document them."

Miss Thorn pointed out that the publishers had to print a new cover for the book because the volcano motif on it "was an attempt to pirate off the motif of 'Dianetics' [the best-selling Hubbard book about "the modern science of mental health"]. The dust cover was a fraudulent attempt to confuse the public by trying to copy the popularity of 'Dianetics.' "