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HEADLINE: SOUNDS LIKE SPY-ENTOLOGY//TRIAL TOLD OF BREAK-INS, ESPIONAGE

BYLINE: BY BILL DUNPHY, TORONTO SUN

TEXT:

Scientology engaged in worldwide break-ins and espionage because its founder believed he was the focus of a global conspiracy, court heard yesterday.

At least 12 police forces and government agencies in Canada were targeted for penetration by Scientology spies in the mid-1970s, Bryan Levman, a former top Scientology official, testified.

Levman, testifying under immunity, said L. Ron Hubbard, a former science fiction writer who founded the organization, believed mental health professions were behind a conspiracy to destroy Scientology in concert with governments and police forces.

Levman said his own "Guardian" office of Scientology ran numerous "ripoffs" - burglaries of government and legal offices.

One time, he said, one of his staff simply called the attorney general's central record-keeping office and, posing as a Crown counsel, asked that the Scientology file be readied for pickup by his "secretary."

Another Scientologist, posing as the secretary, picked up the file and returned with it to Scientology headquarters, where it was copied and returned.

But the Scientologists were not happy a few months later when two of their intelligence staff were arrested with burglary tools in the offices of a lawyer who was acting for someone suing Scientology.

"I was scared, terrified that Scientology would be implicated," Levman said.

The bearded ad agency man said as soon as they learned of the arrest, Scientology began a coverup to sever any links with the arrested men.

Levman said the men's names were excised from internal Scientology files and a fake cover story was prepared by the organization's intelligence officers flown in from England to handle the crisis.

Scientology's Toronto organization and five former staff are on trial for criminal breach of trust.

TRIAL TOLD OF BREAK-INS, ESPIONAGE

Sounds like Spy-entology

By BILL DUNPHY
Toronto Sun

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