THESE ARE THE offices of the Church of Scientology in Washington Friday which were raided by the FBI seeking allegedly stolen documents. The government has accused the Church of Scientology of carrying out a wide-ranging and partly successful plot to infiltrate the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service and to steal hundreds of confidential government documents. (AP Laserphoto)

Church of Scientology is accused of spy plot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Meisner, disillusioned and frightened by the religion he once embraced, holds the key to FBI allegations that the Church of Scientology carried out a secret spy plot against the government.

Meisner, who remains in protective custody under an assumed name, is being guarded around the clock because he and federal officials fear for his safety.

Based largely on Meisner's statements to federal investigators, the FBI obtained a search warrant and raided Scientology church offices in Washington and Los Angeles on Friday. They recovered hundreds of documents allegedly stolen from government files and seized other evidence.

The church promised a court battle against the confiscation of documents but quickly lost the first round when a federal judge denied a request for a temporary restraining order.

Church officials responded to the FBI allegations with efforts to discredit Meisner and with a shower of complaints about what they called the government's Gestapo tactics

The developments escalated a longstanding skirmish between the government and the unorthodox religious sect, and the accounts spun by both sides sounded stranger than the science fiction tales which church founder L. Ron Hubbard once wrote

Hubbard founded the church in 1954 and continues as its highest official. According to church literature, disciples undergo various stages of "pastoral counseling" to cleanse their minds of early traumas

An E-meter, a small transistor-operated box, helps locate traumatic areas by measuring skin reactions, they claim.

In a sworn affidavit, the FBI said, "There is probable cause to believe" that church officials conspired from 1974 through 1976 to plant spies at the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service, to burglarize government offices repeatedly and to bug a high-level IRS conference.

The allegations were built around Meisner's statements after he renounced the church and surrendered to federal attorneys in Washington on June 20 to "face criminal charges and cooperate in the on-going investigation," the affidavit said.

According to the government, Meisner had risen to "a high level of responsibility" after joining the church in 1970 and he supervised covert operations against the government.

Church officials claimed Meisner never was more than a middle-level staff member. One church spokesman, Greg Layton, said Meisner was "excommunicated from the church" a year ago.

Other church officials denied the government accusations and responded with their own allegations

According to the church's account, the FBI raids were an "attempt to cover up a massive international narcotics operation known to officials of the U.S. and some foreign government."

In a written statement, the church claimed that officials of the international police agency known as Interpol are involved in a heroin and cocaine smuggling ring with support from French police and judicial authorities.

A spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration termed the smuggling ring charge "patently ridiculous."

According to the FBI affidavit, the alleged spy plot began in early 1974 with an order from Jane Kember, identified as the church's "Guardian World Wide" at its highest office in East Grinstead, Sussex, England

She directed "an all-out attack on the Internal Revenue Service, which was to include the filing of lawsuits, a public relations assault, as well as the actual infiltration of the IRS by agents of the church," the affidavit said.

In response to the order, Meisner recruited church member Gerald Bennett Wolfe to infiltrate the IRS, which became a target because it had withheld tax-exempt status from various church subsidiaries, the affidavit continued.

Wolfe soon landed a job as an IRS clerk-typist. "On numerous occasions, Meisner accompanied Wolfe into the IRS building after working hours for the purpose of breaking into offices and copying documents," the affidavit said.

On Nov 1, 1974, two other church officials planted a bug in an IRS conference room and eavesdropped on a high-level, confidential discussion of future plans for investigating the church, the statement continued.

As the alleged conspiracy expanded in 1975, Meisner planted a secretary in the office of a Justice Department tax lawyer, Paul Figley. As she worked there through most of 1976, "she took material from Figley's files, as well as Interpol files and delivered them to Meisner," the affidavit said.

The plot began to unravel last June when Meisner and Wolfe carried out their fourth raid on the files of Assistant U.S. Atty. Nathan Dodell, the affidavit said.

It said three earlier afterhours raids, accomplished with fake IRS credentials, had netted the church spies several hundred pages from Dodell's files.

But on the fourth trip, the two were thwarted by a cleaning lady who unwittingly kept them waiting outside Dodell's office while a suspicious guard summoned the FBI. Agents released the two after questioning, and church officials summoned Meisner to Los Angeles to prepare a "cover story" in case they were questioned again.

The affidavit said Wolfe used that cover story when he testified before a federal grand jury last month.

Wolfe has been sentenced to two years on probation after pleading guilty to using false IRS credentials.

According to the affidavit, Meisner has agreed to plead guilty to a felony carrying a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

The FBI said, however, that several points of Meisner's account have been corroborated by independent investigation and written records.

The church has brought some 25 lawsuits against the IRS and numerous other government agencies. Most are petitions for the release of documents under the Freedom of Information Act, and thousands of files have been turned over to the church. The latest suit, a claim for $750 million in damages, alleges illegal spying and harassment by the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency.

REGION OF OASES

Cufra is a region of oases near the southwest corner of Libya, in the midst of one of the world's most impenetrable deserts.

AN FBI AGENT leaves the Church of Scientology in Hollywood Friday carrying a satchel full of documents seized in a raid by the FBI on the church Friday. The government has accused the Church of Scientology of carrying out a wide-ranging and partly successful plot to infiltrate the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service. (AP Laserphoto)

Cattle producers fight for information program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cattle producers are in the midst of a nationwide referendum to decide whether to support a research and information program aimed at getting consumers to eat more beef.

The voting began July 5 and will continue through July 15 at local offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), an agency of the Agriculture Department.

If at least two-thirds of those voting approve, the plan will raise $30 million to $40 million a year. The money will be administered by a 68-member Beef Board comprised of cattle producers nominated by cattlemen's organizations.

According to O.J. Barron Jr., chairman of a National Beef Development Task Force, the board will invest the money in various projects.

Among the programs, he said, will be human nutrition research; consumer education on nutrition and how to select and prepare beef cuts; new product research and development; production research to lower the cost of producing beef or to increase profits; better market information for cattlemen; and foreign market development.

Barron, a cattleman from Spur, Tex., describes the plan as "the most bold, most far-reaching self-help program in the history of our industry." He said it will benefit consumers as well as producers.

The fund-raising will involve a checkoff equal to three-tenths of 1 per cent of the sales value (30 cents per $100 of value) on each animal sold. However, the program would be voluntary and any producer not wanting to participate can get a refund.

The task force, which has pushed for the program and has publicized the referendum extensively, says that "any person who owns cattle is eligible to vote" but they must have registered at local ASCS offices by June 17.

The program was authorized by Congress and is under the general supervision of USDA, which set up the rules for the referendum.

Each cattle enterprise has one vote. Individual owners include FFA and 4-H members. At least one-half of those registered by June 17 must vote in the referendum for it to be valid. And at least two-thirds of those voting must approve for the plan to be put into effect.

Officially, USDA has not taken sides on the referendum question, although Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland has expressed private reservations about some facets of agricultural promotion campaigns.

"I'm very much opposed to using producers' monies to finance consumer advertising," Bergland told reporters two months ago in response to questions about the beef referendum. "I've never been for that."

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Food and Drug Administration official is to be in charge of a major consumer agency in the Agriculture Department, according to government and trade sources.

The official is Dr. Robert Angelotti, director of compliance for FDA's bureau of foods. The National Broiler Council, one of the sources, says that Angelotti has accepted the job of administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service.

Meat and poultry inspection are included in the agency's functions.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers are seeing more fresh vegetables on store shelves this summer than they did a year ago, according to a new survey by the Agriculture Department.

The department's Crop Reporting Board said Friday that growers of 14 major vegetable crops have 321,780 acres for harvest during July August and September. That is an increase of two per cent from 314,620 acres last summer.

Moreover, officials said that yields may be slighly larger, meaning that the total vegetable tonnage will be up three per cent from last year.

But the report said that farmers who produce cantaloups, watermelons and honeydew melons have reduced their acreages 11 per cent from last year. Part of the cutback, however, is a statistical change in reporting Georgia watermelons now in the spring instead of the summer.

The report indicated larger supplies this summer of snap beans, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant and green peppers. There will be less broccoli, cauliflower, celery, escarole, lettuce, spinach and tomatoes.

Stadium group ends inspection

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission finished its inspections Friday of seven proposed stadium sites.

The group wound up its four-day tour by looking at sites at Midway Stadium in St. Paul and one in Coon Rapids.

"It's like talking with someone on the phone whom you don't know," said commission chairman Dan Brutger about the importance of the inspections. "After you meet them in person, you might have a different impression."

A public hearing on all seven proposals is scheduled July 20 in St. Paul. The commission has until Aug. 1 to cut the list of proposed sites to three.

The City of St. Paul recommended using Midway Stadium as a soccer stadium in case the Minnesota Kicks don't want to play in a new facility that has artificial turf. The commission, however, decided to consider the St. Paul proposal as a multiuse proposal because it allowed flexibility for baseball, football and soccer.

The 150-acre Coon Rapids site is on an industrial park near Northtown Shopping Center.

Brigham Young U receives the gift of DeMille papers

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A fourton collection of filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille's papers has been donated by his daughter, Cecilia DeMille Harper, to the Brigham Young University Library.

His scripts, notes and memorabilia paint a picture of the "golden era" of motion pictures from the beginning of his career in 1913 through the epic "The Ten Commandments" in 1956, according to BYU Manuscripts Curator Dennis Rowley.

Rowley says his department in the next year will go through the DeMille files, prepare a detailed index and publish a guide which can be circulated among other libraries throughout the world, particularly those interested in film research.

"At some time in the future, with concurrence of the DeMille family, we will be willing to share microfilm copies with other institutions," Rowley said.

The 300 boxes, which temporarily fill the hallways of the library, contain scripts (rough drafts to final shooting copies), still photographs, letters, production files, financial records, drawings, posters and flyers and thorough, detailed research on a number of DeMille films.

"Father would be honored to know his papers are going to BYU," said Mrs. Harper, of Los Angeles. "He was always friendly with the Mormon Church and would feel good about having his records in Utah, where they can be used by students."

DeMille was a friend of former Mormon Church president David O. McKay and in 1967 accompanied the church leader to BYU to receive an honorary doctor of letters degree.

In his commencement address to the graduating class two years before his death, the producer-director somewhat prophetically told the graduates, "The voice that speaks to you tonight will long be stilled before you reach my age and look back upon your handiwork. But the thoughts which I have tried to give you — from this platform and through our production of "The Ten Commandments" — will live on, because they are eternal."

DeMille was an indefatigable researcher. His research records on "Union Pacific" (1938) contain a fairly complete history of the construction of the transcontinental railroad, including costume sketches, what political leaders looked like in 1869, contemporary photographs, and volumes of information he felt he needed to make a film in an authentic setting.

"Father was a young man the beginning of the motion picture industry," Mrs. Harper said. "He had a great deal to do with its growth in the country and in the world. There might be many things in the papers that would be of help to students interested in studying the beginnings and growth of the industry. My father certainly had a tremendous influence on world thought and entertainment."

She said he would have been extremely interested in the innovations of modern motion pictures, "but he certainly would not have liked the erotica and the foul language in so many films today."

"This is one of the greatest collections of its kind in the world," said Rowley, pointing out that by looking through the titles of the DeMille scripts, one sees a long string of successes that include:

"The Squaw Man," three versions, 1913, 1918 and 1931; "The Ten Commandments," two versions, 1923 and 1956; "King of Kings," 1926; "Dynamite," his first talkie, 1929; "Madame Satan," 1930; "The Sign of the Cross," 1932; "Cleopatra," 1934; "The Plainsman," 1936; "Unconquered," 1946; "Samson and Delilah," 1948; and "The Greatest Show on Earth,".

Carter, governors talk farm problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter was noncommittal but seemed willing to listen to governors from 10 states as they discussed economic problems of farmers, Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich says.

"He was noncommittal. But I think he was impressed by the fact that all the governors had the same story. They were very sincere," Perpich said, after meetings with Carter and other top administration officials Friday.

Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm had a somewhat harsher assessment.

"I don't think we got any movement at all," Lamm said. "We confirmed what we already knew--that the president is a strong-minded, strong-willed individual, with less give than most people one deals with in politics."

Carter has said he would veto a farm bill passed by the Senate that would push price supports for grain higher than he wants. It would set 1978 target prices at $3.10 per bushel of wheat and $2.28 per bushel of corn. Congressional budget officials say it would cost $1.9 million.

The House is expected to take up a farm bill next week that would cost $1 billion and set target prices at $3 per bushel of wheat and $2 per bushel of corn. Farmers generally favor the Senate version.

Perpich said Minnesota is over the worst of the drought, but he said farmers are becoming more concerned over prospects of depressed prices for wheat and corn.

'Ory-gon' Model T travelers about half way to destination

By ALEX JOHNSON
Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A trio of happy-go-lucky farmers from "Ory gun" wheezed to a stop at a Watertown gas station in their 1917 Model T Ford "that we just picked up out of junk piles and put together piece by piece."

Gassed up, all visible nuts and bolts tightened, weight evenly distributed, they rattled away toward Maine, which if all goes will, they hope to each sometime in mid-July.

"We're headed for Eastport, which the map says is the eastern most part of Maine," said Dennis Hopper of Woodburn, Ore. "We're going to get our feet wet in the Atlantic Ocean."

That done, plus some local sightseeing, they'll begin the return trip, swinging down through the Great Smokey and Blue Ridge Mountains and then through the Ozarks.

"It's a whole summer project," remarked David Campbell of Madras.

"There's lots of daily maintenance," added Kirk Metteer, also of Madras. "She leaks gas, water and oil. We add about a quart of oil a day but I'll bet we got the cleanest bearings anywhere."

Hopper, Campbell and Metteer are all high school friends. They started assembling their 1917 Model T about two years ago although Campbell, a car buff, starting picking up parts sooner.

The car is "all 1917" except for the wheels, which came from 1926 27 model years.

It was test driven around Madras and the three men left that community June 12

All went well until mid-Montana when four days of engine repair temporarily sidetracked them.

The three say it's strictly a sight and sound operation. The auto has no engine instruments, no odometer and minor electric problems tend to become epidemic.

Fortunately, the three have farm and mechanical backgrounds which they say enables them to keep the wheels rolling.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE with Major Hoople

BRIDGE

Oswald and Jim Jacoby

West bites the bullet

NORTH (D) 9
♠ Q 10 9 6
♥ A J 10
♦ K J
♣ Q 10 9 3

WEST
♠ K J 2
♥ 9 7 6 5 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ K 7

EAST
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ K 4
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 8 2
♦ A Q 10 6
♣ A J 6 5

North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2 N.T.
Pass	3 N.T.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead — 5♥

By Oswald & James Jacoby

"Quite a play partner," chortled East.

"I guess I was desperate," replied West.

West made the normal opening lead of the five of hearts. East won with the king and returned the suit. South won in dummy, led the queen of clubs and let it ride. West took his king.

Here is where West made the play that received East's approval. He decided there was no future in the heart suit and that the only way to defeat the contract would be to collect three quick spade tricks. So he promptly led his king of spades and continued with the deuce.

South looked long and hard in all directions, finally reached over and played dummy's queen. East took his ace and returned the suit. West made his jack and that was enough.

South really shouldn't have fallen for West's play. If West actually held the ace and king he would have under-led them to start with. On the other hand, there had to be some real merit to the play West made since it did succeed.

CROSSWORD

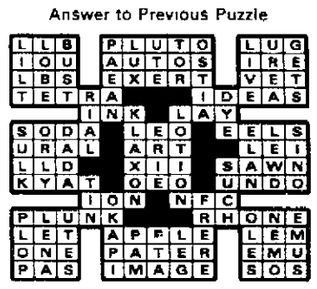
ACROSS

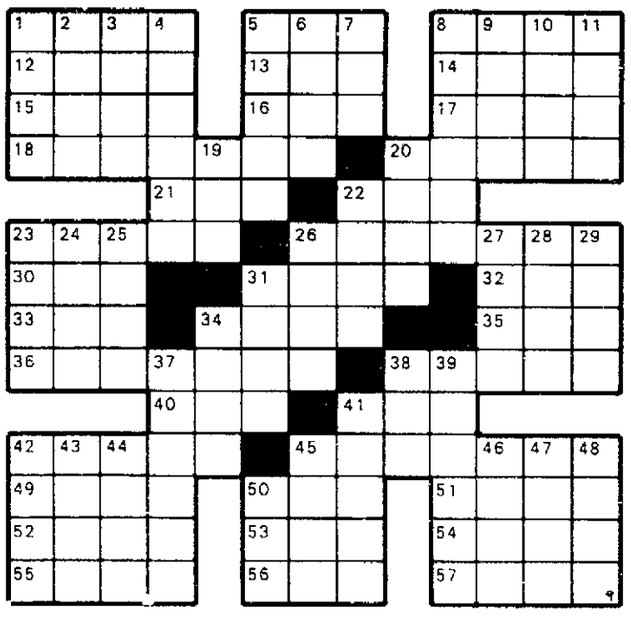
1 Skirt
5 Rowing blade
8 Bloody
12 Makes perfect score
13 Heat unit
14 Song
15 Mountain pass in India
16 Vast period of time
17 Puff
18 Fallacy
20 Looks at
21 Sooner than
22 Prospector's find
23 Store employee
26 Large kettle
30 Wood
31 Indiana city
32 Poverty-war agency (abbr.)
33 Lyric poem
34 Weapons
35 Day of week (abbr.)
36 Calms
38 Cooks
40 Use oars
41 Spanish gold
42 Crush
45 Watch face cover
49 Distinctive air
50 Gallic affirmative
51 Correct
52 Fitting reward
53 To and ——
54 One (Ger.)
55 Weather bureau (abbr.)
56 Sawbuck
57 Oodles

DOWN

1 Coughs
2 Eight (Sp.)
3 Gather
4 Old Testament book
5 Overweight
6 Mighty mite
7 Compete in a race
8 Coughed
9 College examination
10 Singer Stevens
11 Mouths (sl.)
19 Annoy
20 Paris airport
22 Paddles
23 Makes pigeon sounds
24 Take on cargo
25 Squeezed out
26 Engine part (pl.)
27 Repetition
28 Egg (Fr.)
29 Words of denial
31 Matured
34 At the summit
37 Spanish fleet
38 Sob
39 Hotel
41 Mythical hunter
42 Answered summons
43 Regrets
44 Makes mad
45 Panacea
46 Set of three
47 Mother's sister
48 Sediment
50 Frequently (poet.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle





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