

SCIENTOLOGY PROPHET

BY THE CLOSE-UP STAFF

The founder and leader of the world Scientology movement, 57-year-old L. Ron Hubbard, was believed to be "somewhere at sea" on his 3300-ton flagship the Royal Scotsman last night while his British organisations pressed on with their mission of "survival and expansion."

The Government's announcement on Thursday of a clamp-down on what the Health Minister, Mr Robinson, called the "objectionable growth of scientology" came only weeks after three scientology organisations — including two key ones for the world movement — were set up in Edinburgh. Yesterday there was a total of 115 staff in the three Edinburgh establishments.

Seventy-eight of them are in the Publications Organisation in North-east Thistle Street Lane, which has been since last month the international headquarters for the production of scientology books, lecture tapes and promotion material. A mineograph department also produces duplicated memos correspondence for internal communication between the various organisations — known as "orgs."

Advanced stuff

At the front of the "Pub Org." building, on Queen Street, is another scientology organisation — H.A.P.I., the Hubbard Academy of Personal Independence. This Org., with a present staff of seven, is — unlike the other two Edinburgh Orgs — a standard scientology set-up for making contact with interested outsiders and giving

novitiates their early training or "processing."

The third of the Edinburgh Orgs, which operate independently, is in the old Suttie's Hotel premises, on the South Bridge, which the scientologists purchased for £16,000 in April. As a condition of their offer, they gave the previous occupants only about two weeks in which to vacate the building.

It has now been turned into the Hubbard College of Advanced Studies, where the most advanced scientology in the world is received. The college is run by Sea Org, so called because its organisational headquarters is on board Hubbard's flagship. To members of Sea Org, Hubbard — known elsewhere as Ron — is referred to as the Commodore.

The flagship, the twin-screw Royal Scotsman, built by Harland & Wolff in 1936, was formerly owned by Burns & Laird and used on the Glasgow-Dublin run, taking up to 750 passengers. She is now registered in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in the name of the Hubbard Exploration Co.

Twenty-four-year-old Susan Payer, public relations officer on the Royal Scotsman, was visiting Sea Org in Edinburgh this week and was scheduled to return to the flagship yesterday. She declined to reveal the whereabouts of the Commodore and his ship. But it seems the Orgs maintain contact with Hubbard at sea by means of telex and radio links relayed through the Hubbard communications headquarters in the South of England.

Hubbard has three telex

stations in the South, one in London — listed as the Hubbard Communications Office Ltd., one at the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International at the movement's headquarters in Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, and one in Hubbard's own name at the same address. The Orgs prefer to com-

the facilities of someone else's machine nearby.

Most of the scientologists in the Edinburgh Orgs are young, many in their 'twenties, and appear to come mainly from the U.S., Australia, Canada and England. They are smiling, polite and at pains to explain that the aims of the movement are to help people.

But what seems to be behind the Government action which has taken the form of curtailing the issue of work permits to foreign nationals coming to scientology establishments in Britain, is not so much a disagreement with the movement's aims. Rather, Ministers are troubled by scientology's "processing" techniques, and the structure of a fast-expanding organisation in which the word of L. Ron Hubbard is, in effect, the last word.

Starry-eyed

In Scotland, the outsider would most likely come into contact with scientology first through the newspaper advertisements and displays outside the H.A.P.I. building in Queen Street, offering a free intelligence and personality test. The test — called the Oxford Capacity Analysis — takes the form of a lengthy questionnaire. As with all scientology publications, the test is protected by L. Ron Hubbard's copyright.

After ticking his way through the test, the person is given an appointment to discuss his results with a "practitioner."

Morally, the scientologists are permissive, and their religious ceremonies, including weddings, christenings and funerals, are simple and straightforward. At the front of the church is merely a podium, although the minister may wear a dog-collar and eight-pointed cross, standing for scientology's eight dynamics. The eighth dynamic is: "Supreme Being, the ultimate Creator, and God, when so meant."

Neville Chamberlain, aged 21, who took up scientology after a Hubbard book had helped him pass his physics and chemistry exams, has taken the minister's course. He is qualified to perform scientology weddings and funerals.

communicate by telex rather than telephone, on the basis of the scientology maxim "if it's not written, it's not true." Sea Org in Edinburgh has a telex machine in order, and in the meantime is discreetly using



A student (right) is tutored in the use of a Hubbard E-meter in the confessional. The instrument is "a crude form of the conventional lie detector."

JRDAY, JULY 27, 1968

SILENT AS 'ORGS' DIG IN

The main Edinburgh practitioner, it seems, is a Mr Ernest Saren, and at the appointments he produces a personality "graph" showing the questionnaire results on ten "personality dimensions" such as happy-depressed and capable-inhibited. The final column on the capacity analysis chart gives an I.Q. figure.

Saren's qualifications for discussing people's problems on the basis of this questionnaire, according to a H.A.P.I. spokesman, are scientology qualifications only. One of those tested in the H.A.P.I. building this week, a 19-year-old apprentice who had already spent £16 on an astrology correspondence course to find out if the planets' movements had any bearing on his problems, went to the scientology test "because they seemed to be run by some sort of psychologists."

After his interview, he bought a 6s copy of a paperback by Hubbard on "The Problems of Work." He was given home his personality chart, showing his level on six of the personality scores to be well below the line marked "attention urgent." He believes that reading the book may help him.

At the back of the H.A.P.I. building, in Thistle Street Lane, Pub Org sends these books all over the world. According to Mrs Judy Ziff, an Australian and depute director of Pub Org—her husband, the director is at present in the U.S.—one week recently saw 38,000 books leave the building. They have stocks of 35 titles, all by L. Ron Hubbard, and have just ordered 750,000 reprints.

Pub Org was formed with a staff of 12 last September at East Grinstead, and is the first Org to have a special function. As well as organising the books, the Org tape department can produce 200 copies of lecture tapes a week for distribution to other Orgs. As with the books, the tapes are all by Hubbard.

These books and tapes contain the "data" of scientology, and it is to these Hubbard sources that the novice is encouraged to go. His first step on the ladder of upward progression through scientology is to take the Dianetic Auditor's course, costing £125.

The basis of this training is the confessional, or auditing, session which is—according to 19-year-old Laurel Watson, publicity officer at Sea Org in Edinburgh, "two people sitting down together, one—the auditor—listening and asking specifically designed questions."

This set-up seems to have affinities with both the confessional and some forms of "client-centred" psychotherapy. The scientologists, who make wide use of modern scientific developments, have added a technological aid—the E-meter.

Carrying the can

In the auditing process, the person being audited holds two aluminium cans, one in each hand. A low-voltage current is passed through his body from a battery, making contacts with him through the cans; changes in the current passing show up on a dial in front of the auditor.

Laurel Watson explains the changes in the dial reading as being due to "thought

charges", and the scientologists offer these E-meters for sale to students at £50 each.

A member of the Edinburgh University Psychology Department staff who specialises in work with similar equipment, describes the meter as "a very crude and imprecise machine for picking up changes in sweat secretion rate and muscle tension". On the basis of external inspection, he values the meters at "around £10". They are, he says, versions of the conventional lie-detector.

There are a dozen grades between starting the first course and reaching the desirable scientological state of being a Clear. Junior courses can be taken in Orgs such as the H.A.P.I. Org in Queen Street; intermediates tend to be concentrated at Saint Hill, in East Grinstead; and the South Bridge college handles the very advanced stuff. As of yesterday there were 1274 Clears in the world.

Cost of a Clear

The total cost of courses to be processed from ignorance to clearance, on the reckoning of a 21-year-old Clear, Neville Chamberlain, executive secretary of the Org at the South Bridge college, is between \$1800 and \$2000.

Madeleine Litchfield explains: "Ron set the prices to make the courses so valuable that everyone will get more out of it. It increases a person's reach if prices are high." At 21, Madeleine is a Clear and holds the job of L.R.H. (Hubbard) Communicator at the college—"getting his orders, and seeing that they are carried out. I love it."

As well as being processed up through the grades, the scientologist must show that he can apply the new understanding which he is gaining. These practicals involve sitting at the other side of the E-meter, and bringing another student up to the same "grade of release." Thus, for every student progressing up the ladder towards clearance, another student must follow. This system generates its own demand for large numbers of entrants at the bottom.

A ten per cent commission is paid to a scientology student introducing someone else to courses. The Hubbard set-ups

The scientologists decided on Scotland as the site for their advanced Sea Org college after sending deputations to several other countries. "Scotland," says Madeleine Litchfield, "is one of the most advanced countries we have ever been in." Their aim in Scotland, according to the programme for a piano recital which they organised this week, is to "increase the individual, community and national statistic." A scientology symbol, based on an owl, bears the legend: "The Triumphant Scotland."

use such reward — and punishment — techniques as spurs to efficiency in the Orgs. As business structures, in fact, they are streets ahead of anyone else in the use of incentives, information availability and job-performance analysis.

Every section of an Org, and every individual in it, has a



Dr L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Scientology sect.

"graph" based on its statistic. The statistic for the mail girl, for instance, is the number of letters coming and going; that for practitioner Ernest Saren, giving his test-result interviews, is the number of people he talks to.

The graphs are publicly displayed — they are to be seen covering the walls in any Org — and on the basis of what they show, each section or individual is assigned a "condition." These range from Affluence and Power at the top, through Normal Operation, down to Non-Existence, Liability and Treason.

Treason court

Each condition has its formula for future action. If you, or your section, are in Power, you economise. If you are in Danger, or Emergency, you work feverishly to promote yourself out of it. The lower conditions carry penalties such as loss of income, not being allowed out for lunch, and—if you drop to a condition of Treason—you may face a court.

The conditions, as with all information, are publicly displayed in the Org. At Sea Org, on the South Bridge, Sue Pomeroy was listed as being a Liability this week. The formula requires her to make amends.

The top conditions carry bonuses. If you go into Affluence, you should earn a bonus and a clothing allowance. And if you transcend that into Power, you win a pay rise and a personal possession of your choice. Judy Ziff has twice been in Power, and as a result has a typewriter and a tape recorder.

Compiling the graphs is the individual's own job, and assigning conditions on the basis of these curves falls to the section senior. But an overall supervision is carried out by the Inspection and Report people, and the Ethics Officer.

According to Neville Chamberlain at Sea Org, the staff are given all food and lodgings on the premises, travel and

other expenses, plus £6 a week. They have no trouble with National Insurance or income tax: "All that is done for us."

Promotions seem to carry with them pay rises, yet there is little security of tenure. By means of scientology courses, anyone with the ability can be trained to do any job, and holding on to your job depends on your performance graph. In the top positions, such as that of Judy Ziff at Pub Org, it takes a man at World Wide headquarters in East Grinstead to depose you if you do not voluntarily step down when your graph is doing badly.

And who can depose the man in East Grinstead? "Ultimately," says Judy Ziff, "it all goes back to Ron."

Ron Hubbard has an office in every Org, in case he should call. His office on South Bridge however, is not yet ready for him: the desk, the sideboard and the goatskin rug have still to arrive.

But Sea Org, his senior Org with the highest trained scientologists and its base on his flagship, will continue its task whether he comes or not. Its mission is to "make the planet a safe environment in which the other Orgs can proceed to get everybody on the planet Clear."

Survival expert

Somewhere out there on the Royal Scotsman, linked by radio and telex to his Orgs, Hubbard must be hoping that the moment which he started 15 years ago will ride out the storm of the present Government restrictions. According to several scientologists, this week's announcement is not all that new: they tell of troubles with British immigration authorities in the past.

They believe they can continue to survive and expand, and Hubbard, it seems, is something of an expert at survival. His literature relates that "it is a matter of medical record that he has twice been pronounced dead." He was a science fiction writer.

Mind cult hits back

SHOCKED Scottish leaders of an organisation, branded by the Government as "an objectionable" cult yesterday hit back.

Officials of the Hubbard College of Personal Independence in Edinburgh, which promotes the cult of scientology, described the Government's criticism as "insane."

THE ATTACK came from Mr. Kenneth Robinson, Minister of Health. He said:

“Scientology is a pseudo-philosophical cult introduced into this country some years ago from the United States.

The Government are satisfied, having reviewed all the available evidence, that scientology is socially harmful. It alienates members of families and attributes disgraceful motives to all who oppose it.

Above all its methods can be a serious danger to the health of those who submit to them. There is evidence that children are now being indoctrinated.”

Expanding

An executive at Hubbard College, 21-year-old Madeleine Litchfield, said yesterday:

“There is nothing in our organisation which would cause the Government concern. We are simply trying to make people into better people.”

Blonde, mini-skirted Miss

Express Staff Reporter

Litchfield, a communicator at the South Bridge headquarters, added: “The Government's attack on us is insane. We are an organisation which is expanding and the Government don't seem to like it.

Mr. William Robertson, the commanding officer of the Hubbard College, said:

“At the college we receive

over 150 success stories every week from persons who have regained abilities, the spirit of youth and a natural free flow of expression and love of life.”

MRS. JANE KEMBER, 31-year-old deputy guardian of the Church of Scientology, said at her world headquarters in Sussex yesterday:

“This is not a mind-bending cult. It is a religion—aligned to Buddhism and accepting that man is a spiritual being.”

Emmwood



'Is scientology anything like dynamic government, Harold?'