

SCIENTOLOGY FOUNDER 'FORGIVES' \$13m DEBT

CABLE FROM HIS YACHT

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

MR. LAFAYETTE RON HUBBARD, the American founder of Scientology, has cabled the cult's headquarters at East Grinstead, Sussex, that although he was owed \$13 million by the organisation this debt has been "forgiven."

This was said in a statement issued yesterday from Saint Hill Manor and was one of two received late on Monday from Tunisia, where Mr. Hubbard is believed to be in his yacht.

CHURCH TOLD TO PAY COURT COSTS

By Our High Court Reporter

THE Church of Scientology of California was told by Mr. Justice Fisher in the High Court yesterday that it cannot continue libel actions against three newspapers unless it pays their costs incurred in preliminary proceedings which it has now abandoned.

Costs are estimated at more than £500.

Mr. Justice Fisher had earlier been told by Mr. Leon Brittan, counsel for the church, that it was no longer seeking injunctions sought at a previous hearing, restraining further publication of the alleged libels pending the hearing of the full action.

The judge, sitting in the Vacation Court, said that the order for costs would also be against Mrs. Jane Kember, an official of the church, of Sharpthorne, near East Grinstead, in actions where she was concerned.

Referring to the church the judge said: "They are a foreign corporation and I have no grounds for being satisfied that the defendants could successfully execute for the costs on property of the plaintiffs in this country."

Applications refused

The three newspapers concerned are the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Mirror* and *News Of The World*. They all deny libel.

At the previous hearing, last Thursday, ex-parte applications for injunctions against the three newspapers were refused by Mr. Justice Fisher.

The judge heard yesterday's case in private but opened the court to the Press for his judgment. He said that he had heard it in private because he thought it was "unnecessary" to hear applications for costs in open court.

Outside the court a legal spokesman for all the three newspapers said that they would "strongly resist" the forthcoming libel actions and would plead justification, fair comment and privilege.

The statement added: "Even my own income has been invoiced into Scientology organisations.

"I paid for all the research for 18 years and it is not included at all. All the millions have been totalled up and, aside from some cash loans, the balance has been forgiven."

SWISS BANK

'Millions of dollars'

Mr. Hubbard also said it was "upsetting" to make a \$13 million gift and be hammered for it. He was referring to reports which state Mr. Hubbard has a £3 million bank account with a Swiss bank.

In the second statement Mr. Hubbard said Scientology brought millions of dollars into England "before Robinson slammed the door on the students."

Despite the apparent diespread unpopularity of the cult, especially in the East Grinstead locality, very few demands for an inquiry into their activities have been called for in this country — certainly nothing parallel to the inquiry which resulted in the State of Victoria, Australia, outlawing any teaching or advertising Scientology within the state borders.

'DEBASED TECHNIQUES' Often mentally ill

The Government Board inquiry sat for 160 days, heard 151 witnesses, gave four million words of evidence and presented a 202 page report. Known as the Anderson Report, it found that Scientology constituted a medical, moral and social threat to the community.

Its techniques and principles were "perverted, debased and harmful."

The Anderson Report also found adherents of Scientology "sadly deluded and often mentally ill." It was a grave treat to family life causing not only financial hardship but also dissension and suspicion among families.

Although not recommending a specific ban, Anderson suggested a law forbidding unqualified people practising Scientology, hypnosis and mental therapy. The Victorian Government established an eight-member Psychological Council and specifically banned Scientology, making its practice subject to fines and imprisonment.

CALL FOR INQUIRY

CALL FOR INQUIRY 'Gravely concerned'

So far, in this country, apart from individual complaints received by the East Grinstead urban council and local members of Parliament, including Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Conservative M.P. for East Grinstead, only the National Council for Civil Liberties has demanded a Government inquiry.

This demand was made immediately following the statement in the House by Mr. Robinson, Minister of Health, announcing Government plans to curb the growth of Scientology in this country.

Then Mr. Tony Smythe, secretary of the council, issued a statement saying it was "gravely concerned" at the implications of the Minister's statement and found them "objectionable in principle and dangerous in practice."

STRONG CASE Talk to young Tories

It added that there was a strong case for a Government White Paper on what was known about Scientology in this country and no reply has yet been received in answer to a letter from the council asking Mr. Callaghan, the Home Secretary, to see a deputation to discuss students being refused entry to continue their studies here.

Mr. Stuart Adam Jones, an estate agent and former Liberal chairman of East Grinstead UDC has also stated there should be a full-scale Government inquiry into this cult.