

Scientologists' Convention Ends on Cheer for Hubbard

By NOEL SWANN
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About 3,000 scientologists from across the nation wrapped up their three-day national convention in Long Beach Sunday with a rousing, two-minute standing salute to their "com-mo-d-o-r-e and leader," L. Ron Hubbard.

The group had just heard a tape recorded message from Hubbard, made in the Mediterranean aboard the 3,000-ton motor yacht, Apollo, from which he runs the oft-controversial religion.

As his voice reverberated through the Long Beach Arena, spotlights played on a gigantic portrait of Hubbard, the onetime science fiction and screen writer who founded the religion 20 years ago.

When his message was finished the delegates rose to their feet, whistling, cheering, clapping in salute to the man in the 18 by 12 foot portrait above the stage.

Hubbard, in his message, bemoaned the ills besetting American society today — "the kids on the street; the fears people

have for their safety; youths turning to drugs; police unable to cope with the problems."

"Yet there is a way to stop our whole society from going downhill so rapidly," he said.

"If we took all those welfare funds and the money spent on war, we could really build the country up again.

"The welfare funds could be used for giving all those people jobs instead of America messing around in a war overseas. And the war funds could be used for reconstruction so that America can be what it was always intended to be — the greatest country in the world," he said.

He told his followers they could do something about the situation.

"Scientologists are in the upper tenth of the upper tenth of the world's population in intelligence," he said.

"So don't just sit back — get processing (undergoing training to achieve certain levels in the religion)," he said. "Get trained up and ready yourselves for doing something about the social ills.