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OPINION

# An unending conspiracy

THE BEAT goes on. Just about the time the full story on the Scientologists seems to have been told, some new facts appear.

Only last week in Washington, D.C., nine Scientologists pleaded guilty to obstructing justice. They admitted burglarizing government offices, stealing material, forging documents and planting Scientology members in the employ of the federal government.

Thursday, the other shoe dropped (and it looks as if we're living with a centipede that owns many pairs of shoes.)

Documents released Thursday in Washington showed that in 1975 the cult made plans to take over Clearwater.

The Scientologists planned to worm their way into our community—its leadership, police and FBI offices, clinics, hospitals, medical societies and the state attorney's office.

The Scientologists' strategy was to somehow take control of news media outlets and government agencies, to form influential friendships and then, using alleged scandals or crimes committed by enemies of the cult, to pit the various segments of the Clearwater community against one another.

This would destroy the enemy and strengthen the cult.

THE DOCUMENTS released Thursday also reveal that the Scientologists succeeded in infiltrating the American Medical Association. The infiltrators later were discovered.

Furthermore, the cult formulated plans to gain control of the National Institute of Mental Health.

All this damning evidence was contained in 35 boxes of materials released by U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey.

Scientology officials have responded to this week's de-

velopments by saying, in effect, two things:

(A) We don't condone our members' breaking the law, and (B) you're another.

In saying "you're another," the cult accuses the federal government of criminal acts of its own, and of conspiring against the Scientologists.

The first excuse is a weak one, and the second is diversionary and irrelevant.

THIS WEEK'S developments bring up obvious questions:

✓ How far have the Scientologists progressed in their plans to infiltrate the framework of the Clearwater community?

✓ How many of Clearwater's businesses, government agencies and news media outlets unknowingly have one or more Scientologists on their payrolls?

✓ If the cult does indeed plan to gain control of our city, what must we do not only to defeat that plan, but to neutralize the Scientologists in Clearwater once and for all?

The cult moved into town four years ago, telling lies, filing lawsuits and giving elbows to everyone in sight. Since then they have quieted down and have presented a more subdued profile.

WE SUBMIT that the Scientologists were more to be trusted when they were being hostile and ugly. At least then they were acting true to their nature.

In view of these new facts about the cult, it seems to us the time is fast approaching when everyone who gives a hoot about Clearwater will have to make a clean-cut decision.

The decision is whether to be for the Scientologists or against them.

Grounds for neutrality are fast disappearing, and it's the cult members themselves who are making it that way.