

L.A. Newspaper Alleges Scientology Plot

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A plot designed to discredit a top official of the state attorney general's office and force his removal was among documents seized by the FBI from the Church of Scientology in raids three years ago, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner reported yesterday.

Lawrence Tapper, a deputy attorney general who has headed the charitable trusts unit of the state law enforcement agency for many years, was the target of the alleged operation. It was to include a fake bribery kickback, recruitment of a woman to falsely claim Tapper was responsible for her pregnancy and a fake nun's charges about alleged religious persecution by Tapper's unit, the paper said, citing documents it had obtained.

Tapper had handled some consumer fraud complaints against the church in the '70s. He declined comment about the alleged plot against him, saying the church already has a \$1 million lawsuit against him and other public officials charging "illegal infiltration" of the

church.

The Rev. Heber Jentzsch, a spokesman for the church in Los Angeles, confirmed the existence of the operation against Tapper, but said he had no idea who planned it and whether any phases of the plot were carried out, the paper said.

"I had heard of the 'Snapper' operation," Jentzsch was quoted as saying. "It was a gross operation. I can't condone that kind of activity . . . someone obviously got frustrated and decided to carry out their own scenario. It should never have happened."
