

Lawyer Says Church of Scientology Is Waging Campaign to 'Frame' Him

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 2 — Michael J.

Flynn, a Boston lawyer, was piloting a

light aircraft toward South Bend, Ind.,

in October 1979 when its engine quit

in an emergency landing, he said he

found several quarts of water in the

fuel tank.

Since then, Mr. Flynn, who has led a

legal battle against the Church of

Scientology, a group that has long been

the subject of Government investiga-

tions, says he has been followed by as

many as four carloads of private detec-

tives at once, his office has been bur-

gled, and his clients have received

anonymous messages asserting that he

was a drug dealer involved with organ-

ized crime.

Most recently, Eugene M. Ingram, a

private investigator for the Church of

Scientology who was discharged from

the Los Angeles Police Department in

1981, has given the Federal authorities

an affidavit signed by a citizen of the

United Arab Emirates who asserts that

he once collaborated with Mr. Flynn to

pass a forged \$2 million check.

In an interview, Mr. Flynn, who in

the past five years has filed 20 lawsuits

against the church on behalf of former

members and has himself been sued 13

times by the church, said: "It's an out-

rageous attempt by the church to travel

around the country giving press confer-

ences about me. What they say is 100

percent false."

\$300 Fees to Church

The Church of Scientology calls itself a "new religion," one not based on the worship of a god but which says it is able to make people happy through a counseling system called auditing.

Clients pay Scientology as much as \$300 an hour to be audited by a therapist

using a crude tool called an E Meter to

measure their emotional responses to

questions, a process that is said to en-

hance their ability to think clearly and

control their thoughts and emotions.

Now headquartered in Los Angeles

and Clearwater, Fla., the church was

organized more than 25 years ago by L.

Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer

who has not been seen in public since

1980. Church publicists say it has a

membership of six million people, al-

though dissident former members say

the number is less than 100,000.

In July, The New York Times re-

ported that several former high offi-

cials of the church who were disen-

tioned had admitted more than \$100

million in church funds to foreign bank

accounts he controlled.

Many of these same former officials

said in interviews that they believed

that the church had fabricated the evi-

dence purporting to implicate Mr.

Flynn in forgery in an effort to silence

his legal attacks against their organ-

ization. "He was our No. 1 enemy," said

Laurel Sullivan, a former senior offi-

cial. "We were always trying to set up

an operation against Michael."

Mr. Flynn, a 40-year-old lawyer who

has practiced in Boston since 1972, says

he has spent more than \$400,000 of his

own money on legal battles with the

Church of Scientology that began in

1979 after he agreed to represent a for-

mer church member who wanted a re-

fund of money she had paid for Scien-

tology auditing courses.

Purported Death Threats

He said the church had decided she

was a traitor to its cause and revealed

intimate details of her life that she had

told in confidential auditing sessions.

Mr. Flynn pressed forward with the

case and began to represent other for-

mer Scientologists. He said he then

began to receive death threats, to be

badgered by private detectives and to

be the target of spurious lawsuits and

complaints to the local bar associa-

tion.

Mr. Flynn acknowledged that it he

was victorious in some of his lawsuits

against the church he would profit

handsomely from his legal battle

against it, but said he was not doing it

for the money, but "because I think

they are fascist bullies."

Miss Sullivan and other former offi-

cials compared the allegations that Mr.

Flynn had forged a check to efforts that

they said they had worked on while still

in the church to smear Paulette Coop-

er, a free-lance writer who wrote "The

Scandal of Scientology," a 1970 book

critical of the organization.

In a telephone interview, Miss Cooper

said she had unknowingly agreed to

allow an agent of the church to become

her roommate in 1972. The roommate,

she said, then stole some of her station-

ery, with her fingerprints on it, and

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psychiatric treatment."

F.B.I. Raids on Church

In 1977, F.B.I. agents raided Scien-

tology facilities here and in Washing-

ton and found documents showing, they

said, that the organization, in a project

called "Operation Breakout," had

mounted an effort to have her impris-

oned or driven insane.

In the interview, Miss Cooper said

she had received "many" death

threats from agents of the church and

had been sued by it 19 times. "And now

they're trying to do the same thing they

did to me to Michael Flynn," she said.

In January full-page advertisements

were placed in The New York Times,

The Boston Globe and other publica-

tions by Mr. Ingram, the private inves-

tigator, who was discharged by the po-

lice in 1981 after being brought up on

departmental charges of pimping, par-

ading, conspiring to run a house of

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