

Clearwater Sun

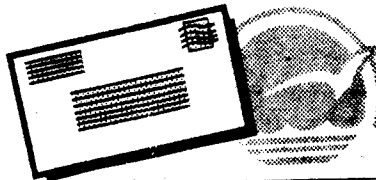
Pinellas County's fastest growing newspaper

Clearwater, Florida

1984

Friday, July 6, 1984

Clearwater



Letters to the Editor

Concerning Scientology

Editor:

Reports appearing in the *Sun* about the religious status of the Church of Scientology in Germany are incorrect. The current clumsy attempt by the Ger-

man government is to DEcertify a fully certified religious group, the Church of Scientology.

The world has seen a similar attempt before.

Reynhard Heinrich of the German SS wrote a letter in 1937 instituting a decertification campaign against Catholic sects, evangelical ministers and Baptists in Germany. It was a prelude to the genocide that was to follow. It began in upper Bavaria, at Munich, where Hitler first took power.

These are the same actions that are being lauded in the *Sun*.

Sun staff writer George-Wayne Shelor expresses a poor sense of history when he omits the fact that the current attempts of the German government ape the tactics of a heinous past.

A major conference is being planned by mainline Churches and religious organizations in Germany because of their concern over this shocking resemblance between Nazi tactics and this "raid" on the Church of Scientology.

RICHARD HAWORTH
Public Affairs
Church of Scientology
Clearwater

Scientologist responds

Editor:

The *Sun's* Aug. 4 editorial concerning the Church of Scientology and Michael Flynn further reflects the *Sun's* continuing bias and blindness to matters concerning the "sect," as you put it.

I recall when Richard Nixon appeared before the world and contended he had done no wrong in the Watergate affair. The press and the public wanted to believe him and placed confidence in his honesty as a man and as our president. However, the facts soon proved that trust to have been grossly misplaced and painfully so. The overwhelming evidence—much of it almost too incredible to believe—turned out to indeed be true.

The data, which have been gathered by private investigators from independent firms with excellent credentials, and of whom none were or are presently Scientologists, (much of which data is, likewise, almost too incredible to believe), if studied honestly will bear out the crimes and dishonesty of Michael Flynn and his "associates." I can only ask if the *Sun* ever bothered to request a review of this evidence before writing this editorial?

It seems to me that it would be of no avail for the church to "defend" itself when so vehemently at-

tacked. But it makes far greater sense to find out the real "why" behind such attacks.

Furthermore, your out-of-context quotes of church philosophy are contemptuous, misleading and reflect very bad journalism.

The last paragraph concerning law enforcement agencies "excoriating this malignancy (Scientology) from our community" is truly unbelievable. In essence you are making a statement supporting police control of religion in this country, which cuts into the very heart of our vast success as a free nation. Along with such an action would also come a denial of freedom of speech. Where would that put the *Clearwater Sun*?

I urge you to take off your blinders and do some honest investigative journalism presenting the facts to your readers concerning Scientology, its tenets, goals and basic foundation. It would be a pleasant thing to see the truth in print.

BRENDA HUBERT
Dallas, Texas

The *Clearwater Sun* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached. They should be brief and to the point. Send them to the *Clearwater Sun*, Box 2078, Clearwater 33517.