

# Kattar jailed; prosecution says it fears for witnesses

## Who's who in Scientology case

BOSTON — George Kattar and Harvey Brower arrived in court together and sat side by side, but only Brower left the courtroom a free man after their arraignments yesterday.

Kattar was led away by U.S. marshals and jailed after prosecutors said he threatened to kill a witness.

The 67-year-old retired Methuen businessman was refused bail by U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Cohen.

Brower, 49, of Swampscott, was released without bail.

Kattar and Brower pleaded innocent in U.S. District Court to charges of fraud and extortion in connection with a scheme to take money away from the Church of Scientology by providing false information to the church.

"Mr. Kattar had threatened to kill a cooperating witness in this case and he had discussed killing a witness in another matter. ... and he discussed other killings," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Brackett B. Denniston, who prosecuted the case.

Denniston also cited a raid by FBI agents three and a half weeks ago on Kattar's summer

home in Meredith, N.H., during which some 100 semi-automatic firearms, explosives and other weapons were confiscated.

Kattar is now in the custody of U.S. marshals pending his detention hearing in Boston at 11 tomorrow morning.

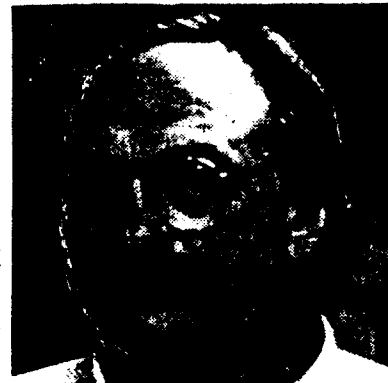
Early yesterday morning, Kattar and Brower were arrested by FBI agents and charged with trying to defraud the Church of Scientology of \$100,000. Kattar was arrested at his 131 Jackson St. home in Methuen and Brower was arrested in Revere.

During their arraignments yesterday in a courtroom filled with reporters, Denniston said the prosecution has at least 10 witnesses and four hours of recorded conversations in the case against Kattar and Brower.

The trial is set for July 16 at 10 a.m.

If convicted, Denniston said, Kattar and Brower could face maximum jail sentences of 45 years and \$23,000 fines.

The July trial is expected to last a week and a half, Denniston said.



□ HARVEY BROWER, 49, 451 Essex St., Swampscott. A disbarred Lawrence attorney, he was fined \$3,750 last year for his role in a \$100-million-a-year gambling ring. He served six months in jail in 1979 for conspiring to help a convicted embezzler jump bail. Brower successfully defended former New England crime boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca 15 years ago.



□ GEORGE T. KATTAR SR., 67, 131 Jackson St., Methuen. Kattar's name has been linked in the past with the names of organized crime figures. Agents earlier this month raided his summer home and business in New Hampshire in connection with loan-sharking, firearms investigation. No charges have been filed in connection with that raid.



□ MICHAEL J. FLYNN, 42, 72 High Ridge Road, Boxford. Lawyer who says he is number one on Scientology Church's enemies list. He has filed more than 20 lawsuits against the church.



□ L. RON HUBBARD, founded Church of Scientology 30 years ago. He died a multimillionaire earlier this year, setting off a squabble for his assets between church and his estranged son. Also a well-known science fiction author.

# Was church cheated or part of a larger plot?

By Paul Van Osdol  
Eagle-Tribune Writer

Four years ago, two men walked into a New York bank and tried to cash a \$2 million check drawn on the Bank of New England account of L. Ron Hubbard, the head of the Church of Scientology.

The bank refused to cash the check after it could not verify the signature.

Since then, the church has been on the warpath to find out who forged their now-dead founder's check. It offered a \$100,000 reward, bought full-page advertisements in the country's largest newspapers and hired a private investigator.

Yesterday, two men were arrested by the FBI and charged with trying to bilk the church out of \$100,000 in return for bogus information about the check.

They are disbarred Lawrence attorney Harvey Brower and retired Methuen businessman George T. Kattar.

That's not the whole story, says a Boxford lawyer, who has been fighting the Scientologists in court for seven years and who at one point was accused of trying to

steal the \$2 million check.

"The church set the whole thing up," said attorney Michael J. Flynn.

Flynn said the church hired Kattar and Brower to help frame him in the check case.

"I didn't know anything about that," said Harry Manion, the Scientologists' national trial counsel.

"All I know is that Michael Flynn has used every resource at his command to try to obtain control for his clients of the Church of Scientology. He has initiated numerous suits. It's no secret the church and Michael Flynn are adversaries."

The FBI also refused to comment on Flynn's charges.

Flynn is well-known for his battles with the church.

The New York Times, Washington Post and Time, Newsweek and People magazines have all detailed his legal spars with Scientologists.

The church has tagged Flynn its number one enemy because of his victories in court, according to church documents in Flynn's possession.

Flynn's biggest victory came in 1984, when a California judge ruled that Hubbard was a "pathological liar" and that the church was a "massive fraud" that engaged in a "form of blackmail against its members."

The church counter-attacked. Church publications and advertisements have repeatedly accused Flynn of conspiring with federal authorities to attack Scientology.

A full-page ad in the Boston Herald March 1 offered a \$75,000 reward for "information concerning the complicity and-or obstruction of justice" by U.S. Attorney William Weld, Flynn and other federal attorneys and investigators.

"The church is satisfied that there is a complex web or construction and conspiracy involved in this entire affair," Manion said following yesterday's indictments.

"This indictment represents only the outer skin of a very strong-smelling onion which the church intends to peel until it is fully exposed."

Two years ago, the church's private investigator gave federal authorities an affidavit signed by a resident of the United Arab Emirates saying that he and Flynn collaborated to cash the forged check.

A federal grand jury in Boston indicted Ala Tamini for perjury later that year and Tamini fled to Italy.

Tamini is now in a West German jail, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Brackett Denniston. Tamini mailed Flynn a telegram in March saying the church's private eye had paid him to set up Flynn.

The investigator, Eugene M. Ingram, was fired from the Los Angeles Police Department in 1981 after being charged with pimping, pandering, conspiring to run a house of prostitution and protecting drug dealers. The charges were dropped for lack of evidence.

Flynn says that without Tamini, the church turned to a federal informant — and eventually Kattar and Brower — in an effort to discredit him.

According to Flynn and his lawyer, the federal informant was Larry Reservitz, who agreed to tape conversations with Kattar, Ingram and others for a lighter sentence on separate bank fraud schemes and drug trafficking. Reservitz taped 11 conversations with Kattar in 1984, Flynn said.

Reservitz met with Robert Kilborne, Flynn's attorney, several times last spring and explained the details of his conversations with Kattar and Ingram. Kilborne said he plans to use his statements in Flynn's suit against the church filed in a Los Angeles court.

In yesterday's indictments, the U.S. attorney's office said Brower and Kattar tried to cheat the church out of money by giving them false information about the forged check scam. Kattar was sent to jail after being charged with threatening witnesses.

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—Harry Manion  
Scientologists' lawyer

## Brower: 'A magnet for trouble'

By Susan Forrest  
Eagle-Tribune Writer

BOSTON — Harvey Brower, in his own words, is a magnet for trouble.

Once a lawyer, college professor and classical musician, the 49-year-old Brower now has a 45-year jail sentence hanging over his head.

"I seem to attract trouble like a magnet," he said after his arraignment in U.S. District Court on charges of defrauding the Church of Scientology.

Despite his trouble, Brower seemed unsinkable yesterday as he reeled off one-liners and chain-smoked cigarettes with an Eagle-Tribune reporter in the ninth-floor room of the U.S. District Court.

"I should have stuck to the drums," he said. "I wonder what my music teacher would say now."

Harvey Brower, a man who 15 years ago successfully represented New England crime boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca, is a study in contrasts.

He was a brilliant criminal lawyer, disbarred in 1979 from doing what he did best.

He chain-smokes cigarettes, but the brand he smokes is "True," the lowest tar and nicotine brand around.

He is known as fashion-conscious — wearing only tailor-made suits from big-name designers. Yet he wore to court a white and blue striped shirt and khaki pants with a stretch waist band in the back.

He once avoided the press after serving time in a Louisiana prison in 1979 for conspiring to help a client jump bail and flee to Mexico. Today, Brower calls himself a freelance magazine writer.

"Why are you hanging out with me?" Brower asked a reporter. "I'll probably give you a bad reputation."

But the son of a Revere bartender, who was valedictorian at New England Law School in 1961 and a former Massachusetts assistant attorney general, wasn't always known as a bad boy, according to his uncle, Benjamin Abrams.

"He had such a brilliant career, but he liked life in the fast lane, and that's what ruined him," said Abrams, 77, who remained at his nephew's side all day in court. "He is a compassionate and good-hearted man whose only problem is that he never grew up."

"He has such nice clothes at home," Abrams added. "I wish that he got dressed up today."

Brower replied, "They (the FBI) came to the house at 7:45 this morning and I didn't even have time to take a shower."

## 'You owe me one, kid'



Harvey Brower wanted to leave the courthouse by the back to avoid media. As a favor to a reporter, he went out the front. As cameras flashed, Brower smiled and said, "You owe me one for this, kid."

It was when he talked about his writing that Brower seemed most at ease yesterday. He said he is now working on a master's degree in creative writing and is writing a book based in part on his early days as a musician.

It is a book Brower calls half-fiction, half-fact.

"It's loosely based on real-life instances," he said. "I guess you could call it a fictionalized-fact situation."

As the conversation ended, Brower walked away, saying he had to report to the probation office on another floor of the courthouse.

He said he wanted to leave by the back entrance to avoid the crowd of cameramen waiting downstairs to converge on him. Cameras are not allowed in the Boston courthouse.

"Why should I go down there in that circus?" Brower asked.

"Because my photographer is down there and I don't want to go back to work and explain to my bosses why we couldn't get your picture."

Brower shrugged his shoulders and said, "OK, let's go and get your picture."

When the elevator door opened and the lights flashed everywhere, Brower smiled and said, "You owe me one for this, kid."

Then he silently pushed himself through the crowd and walked away.