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Scientologists infiltrated Metro police, trial told

By Bruce DeMarn
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Church of Scientology "plants" infiltrated Metro police and the Ontario Provincial Police and succeeded in obtaining copies of investigators' files, a trial has been told.

A church member also obtained a file from the attorney-general's office by telephoning a central registry, pretending to be a government lawyer and sending a phony secretary to pick it up, witness Bryan Levman testified.

"It was considered a big win. Everybody was very happy," Levman testified yesterday. He added that a Scientology plant later obtained a job in the minister's office.

He said, "The emphasis was on placing agents in enemy organizations."

Levman said he was appointed Scientology's deputy guardian for Canada in 1973 and during a briefing in England received a list of 12 agencies, mostly police, which he was expected to have infiltrated.

The guardian's office, Levman explained in earlier testimony, was created by church founder L. Ron Hubbard as a separate branch to battle those who were seen as enemies of Scientology.

Levman, who held the title until 1976, told the court about a quarter of his time was spent overseeing the gathering of intelligence from such enemies.

He was testifying for the second day in Ontario Court, general division, into breach of trust charges against five church members and the Church of Scientology of Toronto.

Levman said members targeted Metro police Sergeant John Fallis, who was investigating the organization, and planted two people, one working for the police and one for the company that cleaned police offices.

They found Fallis' files unlocked one night and the cleaner, John Bradley, removed the file, while the other agent, Marilyn Patrick, photocopied it, Levman said.

Two Scientology members

Cathy Wilkins and Donna Kavanaugh, infiltrated the OPP and succeeded in getting files concerning the church, Levman said.

"It was significant we got the file, but I don't think there was much in it," he added.

After any successful operation, the guardian's office in England was immediately informed by Telex "through an elaborate code system," he said.

Files were recopied and sent "from a non-Scientology address to a non-Scientology address" in England, Levman said.

"I felt pretty good, I think all of us felt pretty good. We'd done what we were supposed to do, got the files we were supposed to get," Levman said.

Levman described defendant Jacqueline Matz as the one who ran the agents.

Defendant Jaan Joot was directly below Levman in the guardian's office with specific responsibility for intelligence gathering, he said.

Another defendant, Janice Wheeler, was named by Levman as the plant who infiltrated the attorney-general's office.

Levman said his group changed its emphasis to planting agents instead of "rip-offs" (breaking and entering) after two members were caught with burglary tools near a lawyer's office in April, 1974.

After hearing about their arrests, Levman said he contacted his superiors in England, who immediately sent two members to deal with the situation.

One of them made up a phony "time track" — a past history of the two individuals — so they were placed outside of Scientology in this period, Levman said.

"All the files were excised of their names and files were also moved out of the office — intelligence files," Levman said.

The two received suspended sentences and the media other than in one article, never linked the two men to the organization, Levman said.

The trial continues.