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L. Ron Hubbard blamed for spying on 'enemies'

By Bruce DeMara
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In the summer of 1973, dedicated Scientologist Bryan Levman left the yacht of church founder L. Ron Hubbard with a new title and a mandate he believed allowed him to infiltrate police agencies and steal government files.

For three years, Levman oversaw a series of covert intelligence operations as deputy guardian for Canada, aimed at attacking the "enemies" of Scientology, founded by Hubbard in the mid-1950s.

Levman left the church in 1976 in some disillusionment — "it didn't deliver what it promised" — but wasn't officially cast out until 1983.

In March that year, 100 Ontario Provincial Police officers raided the church's offices, removing cartons of files and papers.

A year later, Levman found his past returning to haunt him.

Levman, 44, is the first witness in a mammoth trial that began last week and is expected to last three months.

Five members — and the church itself — are facing breach of trust charges in connection with the intelligence-gathering operation.

Friday, in his third day on the stand, Levman defended his own decision, and that of other ex-church members, to seek immunity from prosecution by testifying against their former colleagues.

"It had come to our attention that Scientology was trying to blame all these things on us, and we felt cornered, I felt cornered. "I felt I had to do something to protect myself," Levman said.

~~Levman, under tough cross-examination~~ by defence lawyer Clayton Ruby, admitted he authorized various illegal acts, including break-ins of government and private lawyers' offices and planting agents in law enforcement agencies.

Ruby made it clear from his opening statement last Tuesday that he thought five witnesses, in-



SCIENTOLOGY TRIAL: Defence lawyer Clayton Ruby (left) has warned jury to "keep an open mind" about the Church of Scientology, founded by L. Ron Hubbard.

in the Western world. Individuals who have committed crimes in connection with their churches — yes — but never the church," Ruby said.

The defence's contention is that the illegal acts were directed by Scientology's guardian's office worldwide and its local counterpart, a separate entity from the church's daily operations.

Levman has bolstered that contention, testifying the guardian's office conducted its activities secretly, not informing members of the local Scientology chapter.

This case comes more than 10 years after U.S. authorities began

a lengthy, and eventually successful, prosecution against the guardian's office there in the late 1970s.

Ten people were eventually convicted, including Hubbard's wife (now his widow) Mary Sue, known as the controller and second-in-command behind Hubbard, and Jane Kember, the guardian worldwide, who was extradited from England to face trial.

(The guardian's office and all its local branches have since been disbanded, church officials say.)

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