

The Detroit News

1979 ..

AUGUST 16, 1979



AP PHOTO

LAWSUIT WINNER — Julie C. Titchbourne (left) flashes a smile after a jury awarded her more than \$2 million in damages yesterday in Portland, Ore. She claimed the Church of Scientology defrauded her by failing to fulfill promises to help her with her college classwork, develop her creativity and raise her IQ test scores. She claims she suffers emotional distress as a result. The jury deliberated 18 hours over two days before reaching its unanimous decision.

Detroit Free Press

1979

17 AUGUST 1979

Church of Scientology must pay woman \$2 million

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) — A 22-year-old woman whose attorney claimed she "lived through an Orwellian horror story" as a Church of Scientology member was awarded more than \$2 million in court Wednesday.

A jury of seven women and five men deliberated 18 hours before awarding her \$3,000 as compensation for the cost of Scientology courses she took and \$150,000 in general damages for her claim of outrageous conduct.

The jury denied any damages for unlawful trade practices, but awarded punitive damages for the fraud and outrageous conduct allegations of \$150,000 for each claim from the Church of Scientology of Portland, \$500,000 for each claim from the Mission of Davis, \$300,000 for each claim from the Delphian Foundation and \$7,000 for each

claim from Martin L. Samuels, president of the three organizations.

The Davis and Delphian organizations are facilities operated by the church.

Mrs. Titchbourne said she plans to go to college to study engineering. She planned to attend Montana State University to study engineering architecture before she be-

came involved with Scientology, believing the study of Dianetics, the church's education program, would help her in college.

She said Dianetics was described to her as a "science of the mind as probable as any equation in mathematics or physics and it works every time."

She left the church in 1976.

Julie Christopherson Titchbourne charged in her suit that the church engaged in unlawful trade

Los Angeles Times

16 Part I—Thurs., Aug. 23, 1979

Los Angeles Times ★

Scientologists Urge U.S. Curbs on Easily Obtained Hallucinogen BZ

BY PAUL GLENCHUR

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—With a phone call to a pharmaceutical firm in New Jersey, American Citizens for Honesty in Government, an affiliate of the Church of Scientology, obtained a small amount of BZ, a hallucinogen used by the Army in the 1960's for chemical warfare tests.

A spokesman for the drug firm, Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., acknowledged that it had furnished the drug to the Scientologists and said steps had been taken to strengthen drug

distribution security.

The Scientologists, who said BZ is more potent than LSD, charged at a press conference Wednesday that the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration had been guilty of negligence by failing to control the drug's availability.

The Scientologists obtained 100 milligrams of the chemical by telephoning a request to Dr. William E. Scott at Hoffmann-La Roche in early July. Vaughn Young, editor of a

Scientology publication, said he told the firm he wanted the drug for research purposes.

About three weeks later, a vial of the drug arrived in a cardboard box.

After searching for government controls for BZ and finding none, the Scientologists called the news conference Wednesday and displayed the chemical.

"If BZ were a controlled substance," Young said, "federal agents would quickly take me into tow, but the drug right now sits here legally obtained."

The Army, which still keeps stockpiles of the drug, conducted BZ tests on soldiers in the 1960's but did not follow up to check for long-range effects. The Scientologists said they have located soldiers who have complained about after-effects, including amnesia and weight loss.

Los Angeles Times

12 Part I—Sat., Aug. 25, 1979

Los Angeles Times ★

Seizure of Scientology Papers in Raid Held Illegal

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge ruled Friday that the U.S. government had "illegally and unconstitutionally" seized documents during a raid on the Church of Scientology here in 1977.

U.S. Dist. Judge William J. Bryant ordered the government to return all of the documents seized by 25 FBI agents during their search on July 8, 1977. Asst. U.S. Atty. Raymond Banoun said that the government would appeal Bryant's ruling and that it would have no effect on an upcoming criminal trial of nine church members accused of stealing government documents and planting bugging devices in

government offices.

Banoun said none of the documents seized in the Washington raid were to have been used in the criminal trial. He said the criminal charges were based on evidence seized during a raid the same day at church facilities in Los Angeles. U.S. Dist. Judge Malcolm M. Lucas in Los Angeles ruled last year that the West Coast search was legal. That decision was later upheld by a federal appeals court.

The church has contended that both raids were a part of a harassment program by the government because the church is attempting to uncover alleged government misconduct.

Church of Scientology criticizes RCMP

Calgary Herald
EDMONTON (CP) — The Church of Scientology lodged a formal complaint Friday with the provincial attorney-general against the RCMP, which it accused of spreading false and misleading information about the church to files of Alberta government agencies.

In a letter delivered to the office of Attorney-

General Neil Crawford, the church asked for an investigation to stop the RCMP from interfering with the process of government.

The letter, signed by Rev. Raymond Rockl, national director of public affairs, said the church "has been the target of RCMP wrong-doings."

Information disseminated by the force had affect-

ed registration of the church's minister to solemnize marriages, the letter said. On two occasions, church applications for such government registration had been rejected, with no reason given.

Despite an estimated 10 years of covert and overt investigations into the church in Alberta, the letter said, no charges have

ever been laid nor has the RCMP publicly confronted the church with any allegations of wrong-doing.

This had produced fat files containing allegations based on opinion or rumor "and we feel that our difficulties in Alberta stem from false reports being accepted as valid information upon which decisions are made.

the FERNDALE Gazette-Times

News office
541-3020
Advertising
868-5072

Associated Newspapers in Oakland County • The Hazel Park News • Madison News

No. 47

470 E. NINE MILE, FERNDALE, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1979

One Section

ACHG continues search for drug experiment victims

The American Citizens for Honesty in Government (ACHG) is continuing its search for victims of an army drug experiment where potentially harmful drugs, including one called BZ, described as being "up to 100 times more powerful than LSD," were used.

The last veteran in this area to have come forward was Royal Oak resident Gary Wagner. Wagner works as a draftsman at an engineering firm in Madison Heights. Wagner claims that he was one of about 2,500 volunteer soldiers the Army used in mind-control experiments at the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland.

One of the most recent to come forward was Ohio resident James Dell. According to a sworn statement by Dell, he was stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia, when he saw literature asking for volunteers for chemical testing. Dell said he assumed the test would be like standard gas masks drills given during basic training.

Dell said he was told that the experiments would not be made part of his army medical record, but he did not object because no mention was made of his being given drugs.

Dell stated, in the first three tests he was given a drug that produced hallucinations for about

eight hours and awoke with a headache that "felt like my skull was exploding and being pulled apart." He said the pain diminished over a 12-hour period. Dell said he was given two other tests after the first one, one with no drugs.

According to Dell, he was at Edgewood from the last week in May to July 10, 1959. He volunteered for the experiment so that he could be closer to home, Dell said. He contends that he was never told what drugs he was being given or that he would be involved in drug experimentation when he volunteered.

The members of ACHG are currently seeking people from the Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights and Pleasant Ridge areas who may have been part of this army drug experiment.

Ferndale resident Rudy Riefstahl, local spokesperson for ACHG, said the purpose of the group's campaign is two-fold.

Riefstahl said ACHG will file a class action suit on behalf of the veterans who were given BZ, and that the group wants to know who authorized the testing and why there was no informed consent from the soldiers and no long term medical followups.

ACHG has been carrying out a petition drive in the

area for the last two months. The petition calls for President Carter to order a full scale investigation by the justice department to find who was responsible for the testing. Group spokesmen say they believe the majority of volunteers at the Edgewood Arsenal were given BZ.

The effects of the drug, which reportedly can last up to several days and can be recurring, include

vomiting, immobility, dizziness and amnesia for long periods of time.

BZ, whose scientific name is 3-quinuclidynyl benzilate, was originally developed as a weapon for use in warfare for incapacitating the enemy. Aerial bomb canisters of the drug are reportedly stockpiled at the Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas.

ACHG is sponsored by the Church of Scientology.

Also appeared on same date in:

Hazel Park News
Madison News

Los Angeles Times

18 Part I—Tues., Sept. 25, 1979

Los Angeles Times ★

Scientology Trial Postponed; Plea-Bargaining Talks Likely

From A Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A federal judge Monday abruptly postponed the trial of nine Church of Scientology officials until Oct. 2, apparently to provide more time for plea-bargaining discussions.

U.S. Dist. Judge Charles R. Richey gave no reason for delaying the conspiracy and burglary trial, which was to have begun this morning.

But an informed source said after a private meeting between Richey and opposing lawyers that discussions were being conducted on possible guilty pleas by at least some defen-

dants. He declined to give details.

The nine church members, most of them from Los Angeles, were indicted by a federal grand jury last year for allegedly conducting a wide-ranging conspiracy that included infiltrating, burglarizing and bugging the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

Government lawyers have said that the trial would be based largely on documents the FBI obtained in searches of two Scientology offices in Hollywood on July 8, 1977.

Los Angeles Times

OCTOBER 8, 1979

Scientology Verdict: Erosion of Rights?

Issue Is Fraud, Not Religion, Plaintiff's Lawyers Contend

BY PHILIP HAGER
Times Staff Writer

PORTLAND, Ore.—For the jurors, it was no ordinary fraud case. Instead, they found themselves listening to testimony about “bull baiting” and “fair game,” much of it laced with terms like “Thetan,” “PTs” and “de-stimulation.”

But after a month-long trial, the jurors believed that they understood enough to return a \$2.1 million damage award in an unprecedented lawsuit against the Church of Scientology, brought by a former church member claiming to be the victim of false promises and outrageous conduct.

The jury's award—almost all in the form of punitive damages—is being

fought in court by the church. With support from some legal, academic and religious quarters, it is contending that unless the verdict is overturned it will lead to a flurry of similar actions against religious organizations and an erosion of First Amendment freedoms.

On the other side, the lawyers who brought the legal action say there is no threat to religious freedom and that the issue is plain fraud, not religious practices or beliefs.

Our theory is simple,” attorney Garry McMurry of Portland explains. “If you rig the bingo game in the church basement, you're liable for civil fraud, no matter how you wear your collar or what kind of robe you wear.”

Both sides say that the case, now awaiting appeal, may well end up before the U.S. Supreme Court, focusing on the issue of when and how, if ever, a judge or jury can determine what is a religion and what are religious practices.

“This was the first time in 200 years in this country where a religion was called upon to prove its faith to a jury,” said the Rev. Ken Hoden of Los Angeles, national spokesman for the Scientologists. “Under that verdict, a disgruntled nun could bring a lawsuit, saying the Catholic church hadn't made good on its promises to make her happy and that her sex life was ruined.”

The suit was initiated by Julie
Please Turn to Page 27, Col. 1

APPEAL OF SCIENTOLOGY VERDICT

Continued from Third Page

Christofferson Titchbourne, 22, who charged that she had suffered emotional damage as the result of the church's knowingly false promises to her in 1975 that it could help her with her college classwork, develop her creativity and raise her IQ.

She said she was told the church also had cures for neuroses, criminality, insanity, criminality, insanity, psychosomatic illness, homosexuality and drug dependence. She was lied to, she said, and induced to purchase assorted Scientology courses and services—which she did with money borrowed from friends.

The Church of Scientology denied her allegations, contending that she had turned against it as a result of being forcefully "deprogrammed" by relatives and other church foes and that whatever emotional problems she had were the result of the shock and stress of deprogramming.

Church leaders argued that the suit should be thrown out of court and that church practices and beliefs are religious in nature, protected by the federal and state constitutions and not subject to a court inquiry over their truth.

The case went to trial in July and soon began to attract wide attention, not only as a sort of "religious consumer fraud" case but also because of

the unusual nature of the church the suit named as defendant.

Scientology is regarded as an unconventional "new" religion, marked by its use of a quasitechnical jargon—terms such as "Thetan" (human spirit), "PTs" (potential trouble sources) and "disconnect" (to sever ties with outsiders).

Its leaders describe it as a combination of Eastern and Western religious philosophies. The church claims membership of 4 million, mostly in the United States, with about 5,000 in Oregon. Its headquarters is in Sussex, England.

Recently, the church has found itself increasingly controversial. A group of its leaders, for example, face trial in Washington on charges of stealing thousands of government documents. The charges grew out of FBI raids on church facilities in Washington and Los Angeles, based on what authorities say was an admission by a church member of a church plot to infiltrate federal agencies.

At the trial, Mrs. Titchbourne's lawyers introduced a wide range of evidence and testimony to support their contention that the church was guilty not only of fraud but also of "outrageous conduct," a legal term

In mid-August, the jury of seven women and five men returned its verdict in favor of Mrs. Titchbourne, finding, in effect, that the Scientology practices at issue were not religious in nature—and that its promises to her were false and that its conduct was outrageous.

Alarmed by the ramifications of the verdict, the church has since filed motions seeking to overturn the jury's finding or, alternatively, to obtain a new trial. It contends that the judgment was not supported by sufficient evidence and that Mrs. Titchbourne had failed to prove either fraud or outrageous conduct. The \$2.1 million award, it says, was excessive.

A judge here is expected to rule on the church's motions by mid-month. The first steps then are expected in what could be a lengthy appeals process.

In the aftermath of the verdict, the church has marshaled support for its concern that the case could lead to an erosion of religious freedom. Hoden denounces the case as a "modern day Salem witch trial" and predicts, "It won't be long now before a Baptist or a Catholic will have to stand before a jury and try to prove their belief in Jesus Christ."

Charles Hinkle, a Portland lawyer and member of the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union, issued a statement saying that the present "effort against Scientology"

is reminiscent of anti-Catholic sentiment in the 1920s in Oregon when voters approved a ban on parochial schools.

"I do not share (Scientology's) beliefs; indeed I find some of them bizarre and preposterous," Hinkle said. "But we are on very dangerous ground when we begin to allow the courts to evaluate and judge the worthiness or value or validity of religious beliefs."

Similarly, a sociologist and a psychiatrist issued warnings about forced deprogramming, as did a spokesman for a group of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Jewish clergymen in Oregon. "I am not defending Scientology," said the Rev. Richard Hughes, director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. "I am defending the First Amendment."

On the other side, as he prepared to argue against the Scientologists' move to overturn the verdict, Mrs. Titchbourne's lawyer expressed confidence that the jury's award would be upheld and that the First Amendment would remain as strong and safe as ever.

"In my view these (Scientologists) are a dangerous group of people, whether a religion or not," McMurry said. "But our case would have been just the same had some other church taken money from a member promising to cure arthritis and rheumatism. That's fraud—and it has nothing to do with religion."

CONVENTION

Continued from Third Page

the ERA," said Ineta Cassiano of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

By July, 1982, supporters of the ERA are hoping to win approval of the amendment in three more states, bringing the total to 38—the minimum required.

Guest speaker Betty Friedan, founder of NOW and mother of the women's movement, raised the cheering sea of women to its feet with words that panned Pope John Paul II for opposing the "personhood" of women and that lambasted President Carter and that lambasted President Carter for allegedly failing to push the Equal Rights Amendment.

"It's no secret that many of us are thinking about (Sen. Edward) Kennedy," Ms. Friedan said. "But I won't support him no matter what he says unless I'm guaranteed the ERA."

"We won't fall into Kennedy's trap. We were had by Carter," she said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke was scheduled to speak Sunday, but she canceled when a sudden change of plans took her out of town for the weekend, said Ginny Foot, a NOW official.