A reward of $100,000 is being offered by the Church of Scientology® for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals responsible for the coverup and protection of the perpetrators of an attempted $2 million fraud.

Information gathered to date by Church of Scientology investigators working under the supervision of Church attorney John Peterson includes the following:

In 1982, an attempt was made to pass a counterfeit check drawn on a Bank of New England account of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the religion of Scientology.

Bank officials reported the attempted forgery to the FBI and also hired their own private investigators.

The bank's investigators consulted a lawyer named Michael Flynn for leads on the perpetrators of the crime. Flynn, an avowed enemy of the Church and Scientology's founder, L. Ron Hubbard, accused Scientologists® of committing the forgery.

As Church investigators later learned, within days after the unsuccessful attempt to pass the forged check, Flynn also discussed the incident with Glenn Prinsen, the New York FBI agent assigned to the case.

Prinsen later advised a bank official that "nothing much" was being done on the investigation.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

The Church of Scientology, baffled by the FBI's lack of interest in the matter and unaware at that time of Flynn's involvement with the FBI in the investigation, hired its own team of private investigators, headed by Eugene Ingram, to conduct an independent investigation.

Ingram's investigation lasted for more than a year and ranged from Boston to New York, on to Florida, back to Washington, D.C., and overseas to Italy, the United Arab Emirates and back to the U.S.

By June 1984, Ingram's team had found what was believed to be the majority of individuals involved in the fraud and had obtained exhaustive documentation and corroborative affidavits and evidence.

The scheme began to unravel when two men signed full confessions detailing not only their own but also others' involvement in the crime.

According to a sworn statement by a man well-known in Boston for similar scams, he was hired to coordinate the counterfeiting, forging and passing of the check. This man said the meeting was arranged by a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Justice Department veteran.

To execute the scheme, the man hired to do the scam used his brother, who has also provided a witnessed confession. The brother tried to pass the phony Bank of New England check at the Middle East Bank in New York City. However, he panicked when asked for identification and fled the bank, leaving the check behind.

Accord to the two brothers, they fled the scene. Meanwhile, Flynn tried to turn the incident to his advantage by claiming that the Scientologists were behind the check fraud.

Accusing the Scientologists also fit a plan that Flynn had created as early as 1979 to initiate a media and legal assault on the Church.

Documents filed in court reveal that Flynn claimed that he had succeeded in involving individuals from federal agencies, including the IRS and the U.S. Attorney's Office, and that he planned to use government assistance in the assault on Scientology and its founder.

Despite the evidence that federal officials might be linked in a conspiracy, Church officials felt that the year-long investigation had produced enough evidence — especially witnessed confessions — to result in a grand jury.

They compiled the massive amount of documentation, including corroborative affidavits from others involved in the crime, and turned it over to the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Boston on July 11, 1984.

MYSTERIOUS EVENTS

Seldom are federal prosecutors presented with such an array of already-prepared, documented evidence, in a case where the charges could involve the federal crimes of counterfeiting, forgery, bank fraud, wire fraud, theft, embezzlement, and interstate transportation of stolen goods, among others.

Oddly, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brackett Dennis III was not grateful for the evidence that had been provided to him. Before even studying the documentation, he questioned the motives of the people who had done the work.

Nevertheless, representatives of the Church of Scientology were determined to see that the crimes were fully investigated by the proper authorities, and therefore they continued meeting with Boston representatives of the Justice Department and the FBI.

The investigators received indications that a grand jury would be convened in the near future.

Then a strange thing happened.

A short time later, a man contacted Church investigators and, in a taped interview, incriminated himself in the check forgery plot.

FBI experts of the Boston bureau, who had claimed he was actually the mastermind behind the check scam, and repeatedly alleged that Michael Flynn was not involved, were fully investigated by the proper authorities.

Church representatives were puzzled by this new, lone "confession."

When they thoroughly investigated the man, they discovered that he was actually a federal informant who was awaiting sentencing for his third felony conviction at the time that he made his "confession."

This turn of events reached bizarre proportions when, two weeks later, the man admitted to a reliable source that his "confession" had been a complete fabrication, and that he actually had no involvement in the $2 million check fraud at all.

It appears to Church investigators that the informant may have been counting on individuals in the government to recommend a light sentence, and may even have been persuaded to approach the Church investigators with his trumped-up confession in an attempt to throw the Scientologists off the trail.

Months after the exhaustive documentation had been provided to Assistant U.S. Attorney Dennis in Boston, Church investigators recontacted all of the substantiating witnesses and discovered that they had still not been officially interviewed.

Church investigators, in fact, were brusquely advised by an individual in the FBI Fraud Division to cease their investigation in Boston lest their actions be construed as "obstructing justice."

Ironically, the reported government informant was recently given a reduced sentence of two years, although the law calls for up to 32 years in prison for the felonies he had committed prior to his false confession. Was this a reward for his attempt to throw Church investigators off the track?

When the informant was served with a subpoena by Church attorneys, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston refused to cooperate in producing him for questioning concerning his false confession.

Documentation indicating criminal activities on the part of several individuals, including sworn statements by a number of the participants in the alleged crime, has, mysteriously, not been sufficient to persuade the Justice Department to investigate these individuals, much less prosecute them.

Investigators for the Church of Scientology would like to know why officials of the Department of Justice do not want the mystery of the attempted $2 million check forgery to be resolved as soon as possible.

INFORMATION WANTED

A reward of $100,000 is available for anyone with information pertaining to the attempted $2 million check forgery that leads to the arrest and conviction of those guilty of what appears to be a criminal coverup of a felony.

Others are invited to come forward with any information they may have regarding similar instances of unequal protection under the law on the part of individuals within the Department of Justice or other government agencies.

Identities will be protected upon request.

Direct all communication to:
Eugene M. Ingram, Private Investigator
Ingram Investigations, California License #AA9387
4343 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90029
310-466-3577
(Collect calls will be accepted.)

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