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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Deleted under exemption(s) b7C, per court order with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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JOHN R. PARKHILL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
308 TAMPA STREET
TAMPA, FLORIDA
33602

December 15, 1977

Mr. Clarence Kelly, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelly:

On November 14, 1977, I wrote you relative to the action of Phillip McNiff, the agent in charge of the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Tampa, Florida with regard to the Church of Scientology.

To date you have not replied to my letter.

It seems to me as the attorney for such church, as well as being a citizen of the United States, I am entitled to a reply.

I am, therefore, requesting that you respond to my letter.

Faithfully yours,

John R. Parkhill

John R. Parkhill
Attorney for the Church of Scientology

JRP:at

Response to [redacted] by [redacted] 1/10/78

DE-15
REC-79

47-56081-304

DEC 20 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/07 BY [redacted]

b7c
[redacted]

JOHN R. PARKHILL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
308 TAMPA STREET
TAMPA, FLORIDA
33602

November 14, 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/82 BY SP2 TAP/ld

Mr. Clarence Kelly, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

S.T.O!

b7c [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I am writing on behalf of my client, The Church of Scientology of California, a non-profit corporation, and its members, to make and file a formal protest against the actions and conduct of Phillip McNiff, the agent in charge of the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Tampa, Florida.

You will understand the basis of our protest when you read the attached copy of an article of November 6, 1977, that appeared in the Clearwater Sun, a newspaper of general circulation in Pinellas and other counties of Florida.

We consider it highly improper for an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make the statements he did to a newspaper reporter. It is an obvious attempt to cause members of the Church to lose their jobs and to prevent the hiring of the members in the future. Note his intention to interview employers in Pinellas County in the future as he has in the past.

It is also obvious that Mr. McNiff sought to put the Church and its members in an odious light by indicating that Wanda Martin and June Phillips were members of the Church and were being investigated for criminal conduct. He has no proof that these individuals are, or were members. We are unable to admit or deny such membership.

EX-140 DE-15 REG-73 47-5 (A) 1-305

It would seem to me that Mr. McNiff should devote his efforts to the investigation of serious crimes against the government rather than holding press conferences and using the tactics he is employing against the Church and its members.

Response by [REDACTED]

Faithfully yours,

2 FEB 10 1978

John R. Parkhill
John R. Parkhill

MAR 1 1978

ENCLOSURE

JRP:at
Enclosure

FBI Investigates Scientologists

By STEPHEN ADVOKAT
Sun City Editor

The FBI is conducting an investigation into several members of the Church of Scientology for "possible illegal acts" they may have committed for the controversial organization's benefit.

The probe has already uncovered information that indicates some Scientologists have gained employment in several area businesses by being less than candid.

Special agent Phillip McNiff of Tampa said the investigation had been under way locally for at least a week. He stressed that the FBI was not investigating Scientology per se, but rather several members. He declined to detail the alleged misconduct.

The businesses that either have been contacted or will be contacted by the FBI are:

- ✓ The Clearwater Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ The Clearwater-Largo-Dunedin Board of Realtors
- ✓ U.S. Home Corp.
- ✓ The Clearwater Sun.
- ✓ The St. Petersburg Times.

Among these persons the FBI wants to question are two young women: Wanda Martin, a divorcee with a young son, and Jane Phillips, a blonde with a stark British accent.

McNiff said neither woman was necessarily suspected of any wrongdoing, but added, in answer to a question, "This is not a 'fishing expedition.' You don't have a 'fishing expedition' when you have an allegation (of criminal conduct). And we have an allegation."

He declined to reveal the source of that allegation.

The FBI believes both women are Scientologists. However, persons who knew the women when they lived in Clearwater said they never spoke of Scientology.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Phillips first appeared locally about the time Scientologists were handling a severe image problem in Clearwater.

On Nov. 25, 1975, Ms. Martin approached a city landlady and inquired about renting her

garage apartment.

The landlady, who said she wanted nothing to do with Scientology and asked not to be identified, described Ms. Martin as a model tenant, but said she suddenly left about eight months later without leaving a forwarding address.

Shortly after she moved in, Ms. Martin asked if Ms. Phillips could move into the one-bedroom apartment with her.

"She said she couldn't swing the rent," the landlady said. "So she asked if June could move in, too. I said that would be fine."

The landlady described Ms. Martin as quiet and "secretive," but added that since she paid her rent on time the two never had any problems.

"But I know she does owe some people money," she said. "I've had a lot of bills come here sent to her, and I don't know where to send them."

Last week the landlady was questioned by an FBI agent.

Also contacted by the FBI last week was Jim Parker, executive director of the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce.

"She (Ms. Martin) came to the chamber about 1 1/2 years ago and said she was interested in employment," Parker said recently.

"We had no jobs available and I told her I did not know of any jobs in the area.

"She came back a couple of weeks after that and said she couldn't find any employment and was there any work, even volunteer work, she could do.

"We have 17 volunteers in the Clearwater Mall (tourist information office), so I didn't think anything of it.

"I told her we could use some help on our information lists, fact lists on the city, temperature charts and whatnot. She would come in for two or three hours a couple of days a week for a month or two. Then she left saying she had found a job with the (Clearwater-Largo-Dunedin) Board of Re-

See SCIENTOLOGY, Next Page

Scientology

From Page 1A

altors."

Inez Miller, now an employe with a Dunedin realty firm, was in charge of that board when Ms. Martin was hired. She remembered her as "a very good worker, a lovely personality."

Ms. Martin told Mrs. Miller she was from California, but reportedly the address she gave was incorrect.

"She said she was an orphan, and that she had a brother in Virginia," Mrs. Miller said. "She said she was going to New Jersey to live with her mother-in-law and father-in-law when she left. Since she said she was a divorcee I thought that was kind of odd."

When Bob Blanton, manager of the U.S. Home welcome center on U.S. 19, called the board of realtors inquiring about a secretary, Ms. Martin was recommended.

She was hired about March, stayed about five months and suddenly quit.

Blanton described Ms. Martin as a "satisfactory" employe. She returned for a short time to the board of realtors, where she was a parttime clerk. On July 26, 1976, she bid farewell to her Clearwater lady and moved, without saying where she was going or providing any way to get in touch with her.

"She said it was too rough getting a job in Clearwater," her lady said. "She said she couldn't make it."

Ms. Phillips started working for the Sun on Dec. 12, 1975, in the advertising department. She was promoted twice and was a newsroom clerk when she quit.

She said her father and mother lived in New York, on a street that a later check revealed does not exist. She said her father was a butler and her mother a maid. Her references were also fictitious.

She listed a bogus city address before moving in with Ms. Martin.

Scientology spokesmen deny that either woman is a Scientologist.

"I've never heard of either one of them," said spokesman Kathy Heard. "Of course, I don't know every Scientologist in the world. There are three million of them, you know. Sometimes I think you (the Sun) think more about Scientology than I do."

The Scientologists sued the Sun for \$25,000 after former assistant city editor Tom Coat joined their Tampa mission in March.

Coat was accused of "unwarranted and surreptitious intrusion and invasion of our (Scientology) private training areas."

The suit alleged that Coats, who gave his correct name and address when he paid his money to join, had violated Scientology laws that exclude "anyone from participation in the seminars who would attend for any ulterior motive or purpose other than solely for their own religious and spiritual betterment."

The Scientologists also have banned, according to some of their documents, any members of certain professions, including reporters, from joining.

The suit was followed by a counter-suit by the Sun, and later both court actions were dropped.

"Our hiring policies do not exclude anyone, regardless of their personal beliefs, from working at the Sun," Managing Editor Ron Stuart said.

"It would not bother me to learn Ms. Phillips embraced Scientology. But if June was sent here by the Scientologists, it would explain some of the problems we had with them in the past."

Several times last year representatives from the Church of Scientology called

or came uninvited to the Sun, complaining about stories that were to go to print the following day.

On at least one occasion Sun employes, many of whom are not listed in the telephone book, received Scientology literature in the mail.

And plans to compile the Sun's award-winning Scientology coverage into a soft-cover book to be distributed as a community service were shelved at the Sun's attorney's advice when Scientologists learned of the project and protested to the attorney.

Ms. Phillips unexplainably left the Sun last November after she called and said she had met a former boyfriend and was moving to New York with him. She left no forwarding address and failed to pick up her final paycheck.

The St. Petersburg Times was drawn into the FBI investigation when an agent spoke with publisher Eugene Patterson last week about alleged Scientology-instigated harassment against investigative reporter Betty Orsini, her husband and children.

McNiff said the local investigation is not related to recent FBI raids on the Sci-

entologists' Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles headquarters.

However, information that Scientologists quietly infiltrated local businesses does parallel the July raids slightly.

During its raids, FBI officials alleged that Scientologists had infiltrated a number of federal agencies, including the FBI, during the last several years and had stolen files, burglarized government offices and, on at least one occasion, bugged an IRS meeting.

The Scientologists deny all charges, and the files confiscated by the FBI have been placed in protective custody while a federal judge decides the constitutionality of the early morning raids.

The Washington Post reported in July that the FBI raids netted a Scientology-maintained dossier on former Sun reporter Mark Sableman, who wrote numerous investigative articles about the organization in 1975 and 1976.

The file included details of his personal life, as well as notes on conversations Sableman had with Scientologists while he was a reporter with the Sun, the Post reported.

Airtel

- 1 - [REDACTED]
 - 1 - [REDACTED]
 - 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility
 - 1 - Finance and Personnel Division
- 11/22/77

To: SAC, Tampa

PERSONAL ATTENTION

From: Director, FBI

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

SITOL

Enclosed for Tampa are two copies of a self-explanatory letter from Attorney John R. Parkhill, Tampa, Florida, dated 11/14/77, and two copies of the enclosure, an article captioned "FBI Investigates Scientologists" in the "Clearwater Sun" on Sunday, 11/6/77. One copy each of these documents are being furnished to WFO and Los Angeles for information.

Tampa furnish FBIHQ facts concerning investigation to which Mr. Parkhill refers in his allegations. Review each allegation and submit your comments and recommendations. Specifically advise FBIHQ whether you recommend replying to Mr. Parkhill's letter of 11/14/77.

Furnish results promptly by airtel, sent to the attention of General Government Crimes Unit, Criminal Investigative Division, Room 5078, J. Edgar Hoover Building.

- 1 - WFO (Info) (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (Enc. 2)

Enclosures (4)

[REDACTED] (9)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

b7c [REDACTED]

REC-79 47-566-30

b7c

EX-140

2 FEB 10 1978

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____

MAILED 17
NOV 22 1977

[Handwritten signature]

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/20/82 BY sp2702/ks
11/11/84

4 FEB 23 1978 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Airtel to SAC, Tampa
RE: SITOL

NOTE: John R. Parkhill, Attorney at Law, Tampa, Florida, sent a letter to FBIHQ advising he was writing on behalf of his client, The Church of Scientology of California, to make and file a formal protest against the actions and conduct of SAC Phillip McNiff, Tampa Division. Mr. Parkhill is basing the protest on an article dated 11/6/77, which appeared in the "Clearwater Sun" newspaper. Mr. Parkhill considers it highly improper for an Agent of the FBI to make statements which are in the article which he alleges were made by SAC McNiff. Mr. Parkhill, in his letter, continues by stating it is an obvious attempt to cause members of the Church of Scientology to lose their jobs and to prevent them from being hired in the future. He further alleged SAC McNiff sought to put the Church and its members in an odious light by indicating that one Wanda Martin and one June Phillips were members of the Church of Scientology being investigated for criminal conduct. Mr. Parkhill alleged SAC McNiff has no proof that these individual are or were members of the Church of Scientology. However, Mr. Parkhill stated, "we are unable to admit or deny such membership." Tampa is being instructed to furnish the facts along with their observations and recommendations to FBIHQ.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 11/22/77

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (47-56689) *b7c*
(ATTENTION: ~~REDACTED~~ GENERAL GOVERNMENT
CRIMES UNIT, CID)

FROM: SAC, WFO (47-10713) (P)

SITOL
(OO:WFO)

ReTPairtel to Bu, 11/8/77.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Referenced airtel advised Washington Field that leads set out to Tampa on earlier communications were being held in abeyance pending Washington Field Office (WFO) clarification of specific violations under Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) jurisdiction on which aforesaid leads were premised.

Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) RAYMOND F. BANOUN was consulted concerning the FBI jurisdictional bases. BANOUN advised that the USA's Office in Washington, with full knowledge and approval of the very highest levels of the Justice Department, was investigating a conspiracy by members of the Church of Scientology (COS) to burglarize government and private offices, including law offices, and to steal documents which were of interest to the church.

~~REDACTED~~

- ③ - Bureau
- ② - Tampa (Attention: SAC)
- ① - WFO

lcc. T-507P

1-17-77

06

EX-140 REC-79 FEB 10 1978
CLASS. & EXT. BY 5027AD/AR
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 11-23-97

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

11/23/77 SAC Mc Hoff contacted

+ will call SA ~~REDACTED~~

11/28/77 *b7c*

84 *211*
APPROVE: *NFS/B*
FEB 23 1978

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-01 BY 60321/UC/STW

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WFO 47-10713

b7D
[REDACTED]
Federal statutes currently cited in this investigation are: 18, United States Code, Sections 371 (Conspiracy), 1503 (Obstruction of Justice), and 641 (Theft of Government Property). ~~(c)~~ (d)

Prosecutions of the Federal Conspiracy Statute in the District of Columbia permit prosecutions of counts of conspiracy to violate provisions of the District of Columbia Code. The successful prosecution of this case necessitates a demonstration of the development and full scope of the alleged conspiracies of the church. Though the investigation centers around the COS activities directed against the Federal Government, an essential part of the case will be the conspiracies directed against non-federal and private offices/persons.

Moreover, oftentimes the technical non-federal offenses being investigated involve matters evincing a clear intent to violate the civil rights of various persons, e.g., burglarization of law firms representing persons suing or being sued by the COS in violation of the attorney-client privilege, etc.

b7D
[REDACTED]

In addition to investigation requested by WFO, Tampa is requested to provide the Bureau and WFO a copy of the Clearwater Sun newspaper article referred to in Tampa airtel to the Bureau, 11/8/77, and any further articles which might appear relating to the current investigation of Tampa division.

b7c
b7D
In referenced airtel, Tampa provided inserts regarding contacts with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These contacts must be