

It's time to declare

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AFTER A war ends and victory is achieved, the question "Where were you in the heat of battle?" sometimes arises.

A year or five or ten years from now when the Scientologists have finally been persuaded to leave Clearwater, a similar question will be asked of individuals, companies, organizations and governmental bodies in and around our city.

No one is going to prosecute those who sat on their hands or hid in a closet during these days now upon us, when support is needed from all directions to help remove the cult from our midst.

However, we think that when the victory comes, and in the years to follow, anyone who can say, "I was there, I showed my face, I took a stand" will derive immense and lasting satisfaction.

He or she will deserve the gratitude of Clearwater's people for many decades to come. The same can be said of organizations, public and private, who go on record in opposition to Scientology.

NEXT MONTH the Clearwater Bar Association will vote on a resolution condemning and criticizing Scientologists.

A news story about the proposed resolution appears elsewhere in today's Clearwater Sun.

We applaud the Association's board for setting forth this resolution for the consideration of the CBA's members.

We hope the CBA adopts the resolution, and by a hefty proportion of its membership.

It would signify that an influential and responsible segment of Clearwater's civic structure regards the Scientologists as a threat to our community.

The phrasing of the resolution shows that the CBA, while recognizing that the law must protect freedom of religion, is more than a little irked that the Scientologists have at times scorned available legal and judicial processes.

Rather than rely on laws and courts, Scientologists have tried to make their own laws and code of morality.

Will other Clearwater organizations come forward against Scientology?

It's strictly up to each group to decide. Some organizations will say, "Let's not get involved. It's not our fight. It doesn't concern us."

That's not so. As long as Scientology remains in our city, a big brass bell will be tolling, and it tolls for each of us.

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WE WERE unfair to county property appraiser Ron Schultz in our Wednesday editorial, which lumped him in with other public officials who met in private with Scientologists recently.

Schultz protested against doing so. When he finally met with cult representatives, an assistant county attorney was also present. And immediately after the meeting Schultz insisted that reporters be given all details of matters that had been discussed.

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