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On one point we can agree

AT LAST a point has been raised on which the Sun and the Scientologists can agree.

The point is the need for the federal government to take a close look at what's happening in Clearwater with the Scientologists, the news media, Gabe Cazares, Richard Tenney and the entire panorama of cult-Clearwater involvement.

On Monday the Scientologists head man, Rev. Kenneth Whitman, sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti.

In the letter Whitman said former mayor Cazares, city commissioner Richard Tenney and Sun editor Ron Stuart are conspiring to violate the civil rights of the local Scientologists.

Whitman's accusation is a crock.

To our knowledge, none of these three men has the slightest desire to deprive any Scientologist of his rights.

And if the mental and work habits of each of the three men were closely examined, analysts would probably agree that Tenney, Cazares and Stuart would have difficulty conspiring to have lunch together, let alone plot a nefarious campaign to do harm to the local cultists.

BUT THE Sun, for our part, is willing to let Civiletti investigate for himself. We will cooperate fully with the Justice Department or any other duly authorized government body that wishes to shed more light on the story of Scientology and Clearwater.

In fact, we wish our readers would clip this editorial and mail it to Mr. Civiletti at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530. Feel

free to add any comments of your own.

AT CLEARWATER city hall, some commissioners are saying we must avoid becoming vigilantes.

They are right. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that no one opposed to Scientology should think of lifting a finger against any cult member, or of assaulting him verbally or of even talking of causing personal grief for individual cultists.

Besides being illegal, un-American and unrighteous, it would be dumb to supply the cult with martyrs.

However, we think city commissioners who worry about vigilante action should have been on hand at last Saturday's city hall rally.

The citizens who gathered there to protest Scientology contained few hotheads or gunslingers. They were mostly mature, calm, middle-class folks who would prefer to lead quiet lives.

But they are sick of reading about how Scientologists have violated the civil rights of Gabe and Maggie Cazares, Clearwater Sun employes, radio broadcaster Bob Snyder and others.

To parade, to picket, to wave a placard, to express one's opinion freely—this is not being a vigilante.

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Editor's note: The Sun's new policy is to withhold the identification of any letter-writers who criticize Scientology, unless the writer specifically asks that his name be printed.

However, we do ask that each letter-writer sign his name and home city. We cannot publish letters from persons who do not sign them.