

Duddy

10/1/77

Letter to Duddy

p. 7: Chapt 1 - title

Evaluating a Religious Movement: ~~an~~

OK ✓ The local Church: An <sup>Enquiry</sup> ~~Investigation~~

The Task of Evaluation

p. 35 garbled paragraph

✓ origin of diagram, necessity?

✓ 58 innuendo

✓ 61 hasty generalization

✓ 172 define economy (Duddy to do.)

possible

Label

156-57

176-177

✓ Neil will get back to me.

Call

Dick Baker (Moody Monthly)

best flock or local Church

subdue potential dissonance in the church.

Insert

(B)

P. 46a

Before the Rapoport family was publicly denounced, <sup>an event that</sup> ~~as apostate,~~ <sup>he</sup> they had left the Local Church, <sup>triggering</sup> ~~triggering~~ <sup>ed</sup> the defection of some forty other members. The president of a Local Church in northern California collapsed <sup>apparently</sup> under the pressure of public humiliation and was admitted for psychiatric care in a local hospital. Lee rebuked him for evangelizing "hippies," whom Lee considered repugnant and unworthy of Local Church membership. That man also left the church. Generally, however, members who are publicly belittled remain in the church. Lee's teachings make them afraid to leave.

Witness Lee teaches that the Local Church will occupy a privileged place during the millennium, the thousand-year reign of Christ prophesied in the Bible. In contrast, almost all Christians outside the Local Church will remain in darkness and isolation during the millennium, after which they will join God and the Local Church in heaven. But it is not only their millennial fate that those who are not fully spiritual should dread. Lee embellishes his teaching with anecdotes about desert<sup>r</sup>ers from the Local Church who have encountered financial and physical crises, even death.

Although victims of Witness Lee's diatribes may be

~~Delete Before the Rapoport family.~~

~~Paragraph begins:~~

R One example of this occurred several years ago, when the president of a Local Church in northern California collapsed under the pressure of public humiliation and was admitted for psychiatric care in a local hospital. Lee rebuked him for evangelizing "hippies," whom Lee considered repugnant and unworthy of Local Church membership. That man eventually left the church. ~~(continue to end of paragraph as is)~~

(B)

to p. 176

(back to p. 176)

no TP

afraid to leave because of spiritual or physical consequences, the prospect of remaining within church ranks is not all that appealing either. Publicly humiliated members must endure a phase of being ostracized and alienated from social interaction. It is no wonder that fear of being "singled out" has contributed to emotional breakdowns among Anaheim church members, some, according to Rapoport, requiring hospitalization. For the majority, however, the public exhortations are viewed as an appropriate way to stimulate a higher degree of spirituality. Lee calls it "the breaking of the outer man." He seems to be masterful at engendering an exalted group spirit while simultaneously making certain individuals extremely uncomfortable.

### Big Brother

Witness Lee's teachings on sanctification encourage a peculiar mentality of suspicion within the Local Church. According to Lee, a person's spirituality is sensed, "smelled," or intuited. Consequently, Local Church members are encouraged to "sense" each other and outsiders. A person's "vibrations" will indicate that person's level of growth in possession of the life of God. Seeking such ethereal vibrations can produce suspicion. Two members