

THE CLERK OF STOCKTON SPRINGS,  
MAINE

HON. WILLIAM S. COHEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1976

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the town clerk of the small Maine town of Stockton Springs is an unusual man named Walter F. Trundy. Mr. Trundy is unusual because he has held his office for more than 68 years and, at age 96, is still going strong.

Last month, Michael Starn, managing editor of the Maine Townsman, the publication of the Maine Municipal Association, visited Mr. Trundy in Stockton Springs. Mr. Starn's article describing his visit, which appeared in the February edition, is entertaining reading and provides the interesting insights of the man who is probably the oldest municipal official in the United States.

I commend the article to the attention of my colleagues. The article follows:

THE CLERK OF STOCKTON SPRINGS

(By Michael L. Starn)

Walter F. Trundy of Stockton Springs could very well hold a national record for the longest time served as a town clerk.

If he does hold the record, then he's setting a new one every day. Unbelievably, after 68 years as town clerk, 96-year-old Walter Trundy is still able to perform the duties of the office he was first elected to in 1906.

"I've called every town meeting to order for 68 years," boasts the quickwitted Trundy.

Remarkably perceptive for his age, Trundy loves to reminisce about the "good old days."

Trundy, who will turn 97 in March, fondly recalls registering Stockton Springs men during the two world wars. "I registered every man in World War I, and I did it alone," he says. "In World War II, I registered them all again, but I had four helpers."

The life-long resident of Stockton Springs has a very interesting and proud story to tell about his great-grandfather who served in the American Revolution.

It so happens that Trundy's great-grandfather Joseph Plumber Martin joined the Colonial Army at age 16 and fought throughout the entire war.

After the war ended, Martin wrote his memoirs in a book about the American Revolution entitled "Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier." The book was copyrighted in 1830 and published in Hallowell, Maine.

Trundy, who possesses one of the few original copies, once asked a Rutgers history professor to track down any remaining originals. Only two copies, one in Washington, D.C. and one in London, England, were located by the Rutgers historian.

A contemporary novel, "Private Yankee Doodle," has been adapted from the original book and printed in both hardback and paperback form. "They didn't change anything," says Trundy proudly of the adaptation.

"I consider it the best book on the American Revolution because it's written by someone who was there," states Trundy.

Besides being an author, Joseph Plumber Martin was also a town clerk for 25 years in Prospect, Maine.

Walter Trundy is quite a storyteller with his favorite tales involving his duties as a town clerk.

One of his fondest memories is of his first town meeting as the elected clerk. "The meeting was held in what we called the Old Meeting House," he says.

Vividly recalling every detail of that first meeting, Trundy remembers that everybody stood because there were no male wooden boxes filled with ballots were scattered among the newspapers for the tobacco chewers. The men were hunched over, the cheapest cigarettes available at that time; the meeting house was filled with smoke from men's pipes and there were no women.

Laughing, he recalls that the wives used to make their husbands hang their buffalo coats out on the clothes line because they couldn't stand the smell.

"Buffalo coats between April, maybe . . . it was a pretty long time," quips Trundy.

Back in the old days money was scarce, according to Trundy. "If you wanted to raise any money you had to be careful about how you talked. These old fellows weren't for raising any money," he recalls.

Learning to cope with a rapidly changing world has been difficult for the Stockton Springs clerk. "I'm trying to adjust to the world," he sadly acknowledges.

The abundance and seemingly limitless borrowing and spending of money that goes on is the hardest thing for him to accept. "Today, a man can borrow money any time he wants," says Trundy. "I can't understand it."

His political viewpoints are almost just as financially conservative.

"I'm a Longley man," he says. "He's saving us some money and he's showing us where he's saving it."

Although he hasn't met many political leaders in Maine today, Trundy views the activities of the Governor, congressmen and legislators with a keen interest.

He calls Cohen's near-victory to oppose Muskie in the Maine senate race "the worst thing that could have happened to Maine."

"I was awful glad Cohen pulled out," he said.

The loss of either Cohen or Muskie in Congress, says Trundy, would have meant a considerable loss of power for Maine in Washington.

Politics go back a long way for the 96-year-old town clerk. With a memory that astounds you, Trundy begins telling a story about the time he was 12 and playing around the telegraph station the night Oliver Cleveland was elected President. "I don't recall if it was his first or second time though," he says.

For a man who loves to reminisce, Trundy has a pervasive awareness of current events. Talking about the state's school finance law and the deficits that have been reported, Trundy says, "We've been robbed." He feels that there is far too much wasted spending in education.

A lot of the problems in the United States are caused by unions, according to Trundy. For a man that can remember when unions were unheard of and as he puts it "teachers were next to ministers," the Stockton Springs native can't understand such a thing as teacher strikes.

Getting away from the new society and back into his past, Trundy joyously recalls a time when lobsters cost a nickel and a peck of clams could be bought for a quarter.

The good old days when money was worth something. Now, says Trundy, it's not worth the paper it's printed on.

"My first hunting license was 25 cents," he says. "Now, it costs \$7.50."

Practically all of Trundy's 96 years have been lived within a one-half mile radius; yet, he doesn't feel he's missed a thing. "I love my town," he says with a smile.

Only once has Trundy left the Stockton Springs area for any extended period of time. He went to Boston for a few months several years ago. "When I came back and smelled those flaps, I couldn't leave again."

Over the years, Stockton Springs has changed from what Trundy once knew it to

be. "Even the town government is run like a big city," says Trundy.

"When I first was elected clerk, I knew every dog and cat in town," he remembers. "People were so close back then."

Today, Trundy hasn't even met the neighbor that moved in next door a couple of years ago.

Perhaps, when town meeting time rolls around this spring, Trundy will get a chance to meet that neighbor. For certain, a Stockton Springs town meeting just wouldn't be the same without Walter F. Trundy.

SPLIT WITH SWP THREATENS  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

HON. LARRY McDONALD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1976

Mr. McDONALD of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Socialist Workers Party, SWP, pretends to the public that it is a "peaceful" socialist group working within the system, while in its secret internal documents, the SWP reveals itself to be the American section of the Fourth International—a violation of the Voorhis Act—and to be a Trotskyist Communist Party logistically supporting the revolutionary international terrorism being conducted by the Fourth International.

A strong possibility exists that the United Secretariat of the Fourth International—USec—the largest and most powerful international coordinating body for Trotskyist Communist organizations, faces a split with its American section, the Socialist Workers Party, SWP, which could seriously cripple the international body.

The greatest number of the members of the Fourth International, called by the Trotskyists the International Majority Tendency, IMT, are actively supporting terrorist revolutionary groups in Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe. As a matter of policy, the Fourth International leadership is trying to apply terror tactics in still more areas.

The minority faction of the Fourth International, the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction, LTF, is headed by the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. The SWP leadership argues that terror tactics may be useful to the revolution under future conditions, but that right now circumstances are unfavorable for a broad international terrorist drive.

Nevertheless, the SWP is actively providing logistical and financial support for foreign terrorists especially in Latin America through its front, the U.S. Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners, USLA, which has brought Trotskyist and other terrorists into the United States for fundraising, organizing, and speaking tours.

The background of the present faction fight is as follows: In 1974, the SWP expelled most of the members of its pro-terrorist minority, the Internationalist Tendency, IT, not for supporting the USec leadership's "terrorism now" policy, but for petty bureaucratic reasons. Not every IT faction member was expelled, only those who had violated some SWP organizational rules.

In January 1975, the USec Fourth International leadership ordered the SWP to "reintegrate" the IT members into the SWP. The SWP replied that it would not readmit the IT as a group, but that the IT members as individuals could reapply to join the SWP, with each SWP branch to determine for itself whether or not to readmit them.

The SWP balk has infuriated the Fourth International leadership. It was reported that at a secret USec meeting held November 23-24, 1975, that only three or four IT members had been reintegrated by the SWP. As a result, the USec leadership passed a resolution which "strongly condemns the attitude of the leadership of the SWP," and said that "the highest tensions would exist in the international so long as any ITers who applied to join the SWP were not taken in."

Meanwhile more quarrels have broken out. The Fourth International leaders are very upset because the SWP and its Canadian sister Trotskyist group, the League of Socialist Action, LSA, which is also a member of the USec Fourth International, have initiated contact with the Organization Communiste Internationaliste, OCI, a French rival of the USec leadership. The OCI is lead by Pierre Lambert who split with the present Fourth International leadership in 1953 and who has his own international contacts. USec leaders state that OCI goon squads have assaulted members of their French Fourth International section, the LCR.

But while the USec leaders are upset by the SWP contact with Lambert's OCI, the SWP is equally upset by recent meetings between the French section of the USec Fourth International, the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, LCR, and Michel Raptis, aka Michel Pablo, a Trotskyist who leads his own Tendence Marxiste Revolutionnaire Internationale (TMRI).

Michel Raptis, a native of Greece, had worked for the Algerian FLN terrorists in the 1950's, heading an underground network in Europe. After Algerian independence, he worked for the Algerian government formed by the FLN. Raptis/Pablo has close links with terrorists throughout the Arab world, many of whom received training by the Algerians acting as Soviet proxies. Pablo split with the present leadership of the USec Fourth International in 1964.

These matters were discussed in detail at the December 22-23, 1975 meetings of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International. Both the IMT faction and the LTF faction claimed they did not want a split, but each accused the other of "unity maneuvers" with opposing Trotskyist political groupings—the OCI and the TMRI.

At the November 23-24, 1975, USec meetings, the leadership decided to assign Gerard Vergeat to work fulltime in Belgium in the offices of the Bureau of the Fourth International. The Bureau makes decisions on a day-to-day basis. Vergeat formerly was the Fourth International liaison with Middle Eastern terrorist groups.

Among the active leaders of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International

who attended the November meetings were Ernest Mandel, aka Ernest Germain, who used the code name "Walter;" Livio Maitan, code name "Claudio;" an American SWP member identified as "Johnson;" and Gerald Foley, an SWP leader who coordinates its Irish work. Among those involved in the December USec meetings were Ernest Mandel; Livio Maitan, an Italian; Tariq Ali, a Pakistani who is a leader of the English USec section, the International Marxist Group; and the SWP's "Johnson."

Tariq Ali, presently a fellow of the Transnational Institute, TNI, a subsidiary of the Institute for Policy Studies, IPS, located in Amsterdam, is writing a history of the Communist Party of India. Ali is a leading member of the pro-terrorist International Majority Tendency and is a protege of Ernest Mandel.

Transnational Institute fellow Ali has an extensive record of supporting revolutionary armed struggle including terrorism:

In 1969, Tariq Ali was editor of the book, "The New Revolutionaries: A Handbook of the International Radical Left," published first in Great Britain and then in the United States by William Morrow & Co. Characterized in the New Yorker magazine as a "guru of protest," Ali had strong praise for Mao Tse-tung for which he was criticized by the SWP.

Late in 1970, Tariq Ali was interviewed at Oxford, England, by the Canadian CTV, the national television network, and the program was widely televised in Canada. On the program Ali stated that whether or not to use violence in a revolutionary cause was "largely a tactical question, depending precisely on the degree of opposition which we encounter in our struggle for socialism."

Ali was asked if he had, while president of the Oxford Debating Union, invited Gov. George Wallace of Alabama to speak at the Oxford Union. Ali replied:

Yes. Do you know why? Because we would have killed him.

SWP critics of Tariq Ali complained that coming after the remarks on violence during a period when the Canadian Government had declared a state of emergency to hunt for the FLQ terrorists who had kidnapped and later strangled a Cabinet Minister, his remarks "did not come off so well," and the protests from other panelists made Ali backpedal to some extent.

SWP leader Joseph Hansen, a former Trotsky bodyguard, commented on Tariq Ali's CTV appearance in the April 1971, edition of the Fourth International's confidential International Information Bulletin:

Comrade Ali did what he could to turn the provocative questions into a high-level dialogue on the difference between "individual terror" with mass support and "individual terror" without mass support—a distinction a bit too fine, one must suppose, for the Canadian audience to appreciate at that moment.

Persons interested in the terrorist career of Tariq Ali will find additional information in an excellent hearing, Trotskyite Terrorist International, available from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

I note in passing that the Pike com-

mittee harshly criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its investigation of the SWP and IPS. One can surmise that the Pike committee staff did not understand the semantic games the Marxist Leninists play on the "difference between 'individual terror' with mass support and 'individual terror' without mass support;" and that they somehow overlooked the long involvement of the Institute for Policy Studies with terrorist organizations.

An SWP split from the Fourth International would seriously handicap all Fourth International activities, including terrorism. Equally, a Fourth International reunification with the OCI or the TMRI with the SWP remaining a member would pose an escalating threat both in the United States and internationally.

Therefore, as a service to my colleagues in the absence of an official body such as a committee on internal security, I will continue to analyze the internal documents of the Socialist Workers Party and the Fourth International with a view toward producing further reports.

#### WHAT BEING AN AMERICAN MEANS

HON. WILLIAM M. KETCHUM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1976

Mr. KETCHUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pass along to my colleagues the following testimonial of what being an American means. These stirring words were shared with me by my friend and constituent, Don Thomas, of Mojave, Calif. I believe he has truly touched a gentle yet revealing hand on the precious values that are our freedoms. Perhaps, after seeing his words, we will all think twice before taking them for granted.

#### REMARKS BY DON THOMAS

This American was born 43 years ago in remote Selad Valley in the Siskiyou Mountains of northern California into a family that was something less than privileged, yet because of the free way of life in this great society I have been able to educate myself and reach a standing in my community that only the wealthy and privileged may in other countries and this is what America means to me:

America means to me, above all else, liberty and freedom. Liberty and freedom within the scope of the law of the land, within the limits of morality, decency justice and consideration of the rights of my fellow man, encompassed in sum total by the tenets of God, to do, say and feel as I please without fear.

Where I am free to shape my goals and destiny with limited guidance from the officials of my government; those government officials being guided by the will and desires of the majority of her people, meaning that I have the privilege, right and, yes, the duty to have a voice in the direction that government will choose, "Of the people, by the people and for the people."

Where I and my children and my children's children and my children's children's children may live in peace and harmony with his fellow man, God and nature and appreciate the rich beauty and serenity of that which God and man hath wrought.