

# TRANSLATION

# News

No. 4

## CALIFORNIA TRANSLATORS GROUP CHALLENGES ATA BOARD ON ANTITRUST POLICY

### QUESTIONS AUTHORITY OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO DICTATE POLICY UNILATERALLY TO CHAPTERS

San Francisco.- The Northern California Translators Association (NCTA), in a memo sent to ATA President Deanna L. Hammond, openly challenged the parent organization on the issue of the antitrust policy set down by the ATA Board of Directors, and questioned the authority of the national organization to dictate policy to ATA chapters (the NCTA is an ATA chapter). The NCTA informed President Hammond that "it had obtained the counsel of an experienced antitrust attorney", and concluded that "the new policy as it stands is an infringement on the rights of ATA members to freedom of speech and the press." (William Cramer, a former ATA Board member also raised the freedom of speech aspect in a letter published in the "Capital Translator", newsletter of the Washington, D.C. chapter.) The California group also indicated that according to the attorney it consulted, but whom it did not name, "applicable antitrust laws are not intended to impinge on these rights".

But the main thrust of the challenge came in the statement by the NCTA that "simple discussion or publication of information on prices, rates or fees is not tantamount to price-fixing", and that "the ATA policy goes beyond what is required to comply with the law". The NCTA memo also appeared to question the authority of the ATA Board to dictate policy to ATA chapters without prior consultation, especially absent specific

[see "CHALLENGE", page 2]

### \*\*\*\*\* Emerging Languages of Commerce

#### EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES SEEN AS POTENTIAL NEW TRANSLATION MARKET

Many translators of Eastern European languages, along with translation service companies, are keeping a keen eye on economic and political developments in Eastern Europe. It is generally agreed among many observers of the translation scene that with the falling of the Iron Curtain and the planned conversion of such nations as Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary to free-market economies, the languages of those countries could very well re-appear as languages of international commerce and trade. Translation company owners contacted by TRANSLATION NEWS said that Hungarian, in particular, has already made its appearance as a language of commerce and trade, and that translation volume both from and into Hungarian was slowly increasing. Gabe Bokor, President of Accurapid Translations, Inc., in Poughkeepsie, NY, told TRANSLATION NEWS that orders for Hungarian translations appear to be an almost-weekly occurrence. Several Hungarian translators verified this view, saying that they were now being called upon more frequently to handle translations of Hungarian commercial-type documentation.

However, opinion was more reserved on the emergence of Czech, Polish and even Russian

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**"CHALLENGE" [continued from page 1]**

provisions in the ATA by-laws, and warned that "ATA cannot expect its chapters to submit to ATA directives that place constraints on chapter activities". The NCTA memo, however, was silent on the issues of rate recommendations and independent, objective rate information gathering.

Although President Hammond was informed that the NCTA Board had unanimously affirmed the right of its members to freely discuss and publish information on rates and other subjects "not in violation of law", the California group stopped short of implementing its threat of open defiance by requesting the ATA Board of Directors to rescind its rate information policy. It was not clear from the NCTA memo whether the group's attorney had been furnished with all of the documentation on the rate guidelines program and the various supporting documents, including ATA Board minutes and memoranda.

In a closely-related action, a lead editorial in "ATArashii", a newsletter published by Japan Communications, Inc., of Seattle, newly-appointed editor, Ron Granich, characterized the ATA Board's policy on antitrust as "paranoia", and "an attempt to muzzle independent translators through veiled threats". Mr. Granich asserted that the ATA's efforts to portray translators as "potential outlaws" would result only in far more discussion of rates and other matters which may affect translation rates.

He described the policy statement as a mere echo of the plaintive cries of the "Big Agencies", reminiscent of the cries to load the lifeboats of the Titanic. When asked by TRANSLATION NEWS to name these "big agencies" or the 10 largest agencies in the U.S., Mr. Granich offered no response.

The "ATArashii" editorial went on to imply that discussion of rates and rate information could be pursued unhindered in the "electronic communications media", a place beyond the reach of ATA.

Efforts to obtain reaction by ATA President Hammond to both the NCTA memo and the "ATArashii" editorial were unsuccessful.

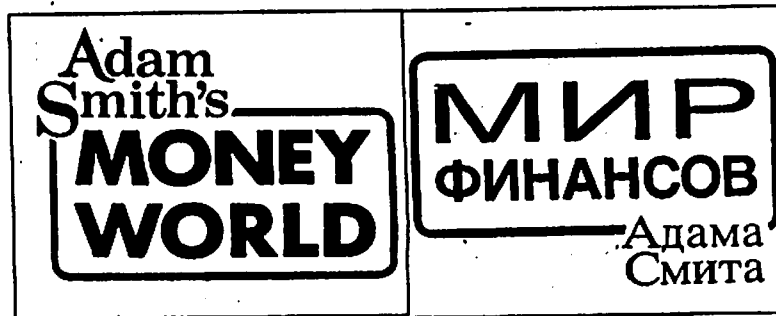
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**"EMERGING LANGUAGES" [contd. from page 1]**

as languages of international trade. Some translators and translation company owners felt that volume in those languages would increase markedly in the next year or two, while others felt that the emergence would not take place until close to the year 2000. The latter group felt that the current political and economic conditions of those countries, together with the existing trade barriers, still constitute formidable obstacles to free trade. Nonetheless, both groups agreed that because of rapidly-changing events, the situation is highly fluid.

In related developments, IBM Corporation announced in early June that it had completed a deal to sell some 13,000 personal computers to the Soviet Union. According to an IBM press release, the company will provide software for the computers, initially in English and later in Russian. A spokesman for IBM also added that IBM has 150 of its own software packages which it hopes to translate into Russian.

It was also reported in the press that the popular television program "Adam Smith's Money World" (see logo below) would be broadcast in prime time over Soviet television. According to the producer of the program, it would be dubbed in Russian. Other companies announcing agreements with the Soviets for a broad range of products and services are United Parcel Service, Sea-Land Service, Honeywell, General Motors and Northwest Airlines.



In a corner of the world closer to home, eyes are being trained on events in Canada, where the failure to ratify the Meech Lake accords has raised the possibility of an independent Quebec. The province, which has 25% of Canada's population and produces 23% of the country's GNP, was at the heart of Canada's Language Bill, enacted several years ago, turning Canada into an officially bi-lingual

[See "EMERGING LANGUAGES", page 6]

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 \*THE TRANSLATION NEWS INTERVIEW\*  
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WITH TED CRUMP,  
 FORMER EDITOR, ATA CHRONICLE

He was the proverbial prince, the heir apparent, the future of the American Translators Association. Intelligent, articulate, an outstanding writer, and unquestionably devoted to the translation profession, Ted Crump was one of the shining lights of the early- and mid-80's. He was leadership material and quickly rose to a position of leadership in the ATA, first serving on several committees and then elected to a seat on the Board of Directors. He was viewed by many of his colleagues as an authority on U.S. Government translation operations, and his book, "Translations in the U.S. Government:1985" was evidence of his expertise. The book incorporated facts and figures on Federal translation activities that had theretofore been unknown.

As editor of the "Capital Translator", the newsletter of ATA's Washington Area Chapter, he brought a distinct touch of professionalism to that publication, so much so that soon people were asking why the "ATA Chronicle" couldn't be more like the "Capital Translator". Ted Crump heard those voices and asked himself, "why not?" He set his eyes upon the "ATA Chronicle" and soon it was his. And he measured up to the promise and expectation. The "Chronicle" was transformed almost overnight from a sparse newsletter into an information-packed magazine. And Ted's audience applauded... loudly.

But the "Chronicle" editorship can also be a graveyard in the byzantine world that is ATA politics. Indeed, several "Chronicle" editors lie interred in that graveyard. Even politics aside, the "Chronicle" editorship is often a little-appreciated job of long hours and tight deadlines, exacerbated by a policy handed down from Board to Board that limits monetary compensation to the editor.

But the kiss of death for many a "Chronicle" editor has been the conflict between a Board's desire to have the newsletter project a certain image for the Association, and an editor's desire to publish news, views and opinions with only secondary regard for that abstraction known as "image". That conflict has frequently acted as a magnet... pulling editors into the catacombs of ATA's internal politics.

Ted Crump soon found himself lost within those catacombs. And with only a few years of experience in the Association's politics and intrigues, he tried to match wits with some of the more battle-hardened veterans. He was a poor match for them. In October 1989, just one month before his term of editor was to expire, Crump was summarily dismissed. But dismissed in a manner that has historically been reserved for those who purportedly "break discipline": a sentence to oblivion. In the annual ceremony of extending public thanks and appreciation to all sorts of ATA citizens who contribute their time and efforts to the Association, the name of Ted Crump was never spoken. He walked around the hallways of the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza at the 1989 Conference a solitary figure, unrecognized to many and unthanked by others who had so much to thank him for. If he could be faulted for his political errors and his flirtation with official inner sanctum intrigues, he couldn't be faulted for his contributions as "Chronicle" editor (say nothing of his efforts as a Director and a worker on numerous committees). Yet, he was faulted - with severity - for in the ATA scheme of things, there is no separation between contribution and unquestioning loyalty to some vague standard. Ted Crump left with no flags flying and no trumpets blaring. The Prince had fallen from grace.

TRANSLATION NEWS is pleased to bring you this 2-part interview with a man who has assuredly left his mark on the American Translators Association.

(Part I of 2)

TN: When did you begin your career as a professional translator? And basically, what training - formal or otherwise - did you have?

TC: First of all, let me express my appreciation for this forum. Some of what I have to say here was submitted in a letter to the January 1990 Chronicle, but was cut out and spliced together without consulting me, with the end result far from my intent.

I began as a translator-abstracter at Biosciences Information Services in Philadelphia

in 1976, where I composed English abstracts of Russian and German life science articles. In 1980 I became a full-time staff translator at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. I have never taken a specific course in translation; my language acquisition has been through university courses, the 18-month Russian Language Course at the Defense Language Institute, and heavy fraternization with the natives.

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TN: You are known best as a Russian translator. Is that the language that accounts for most of your volume? Do you translate from languages other than Russian and German?

TC: Actually, at the present time I translate more words per month from German than from Russian; I also occasionally translate from French and Serbo-Croatian.

TN: Many of your colleagues speak very highly of your talents and skills as a translator. Yet, you did not pass the ATA accreditation exam, and therefore might be called in the terminology of a few, an "unaccredited translator". Have you any comments about your lack of membership in what has become ATA's "elite" community?

TC: I'd like to know where you got the notion.

TN: From conversations at the 1989 ATA Conference with James Schipp and Bill Cramer. But perhaps we were mistaken in our understanding. If so, we apologize for any offense taken. Anyway, please go on.

TC: I am accredited from Russian to English and German to English, and if you take the trouble to look on page 13 of the 1989 ATA membership directory, you'll see that plainly.

TN: Many ATA members speak of you as the best, or certainly one of the better editors of the ATA Chronicle, and have commented on your outstanding journalistic style. Did you ever study journalism in school or perhaps work in the field previous to your tenure as editor of the Capital Translator or ATA Chronicle?

TC: A little bit. As an undergraduate at Idaho State University, I was a reporter and editorial cartoonist for the "ISU Bengal" and later edited "A Pamphlet", a journal of literary and political opinion.

TN: When did you join the ATA?

TC: I joined ATA in 1980; my sojourn in the association began on the same day some 60 enthusiastic translators met in Washington, DC to discuss formation of a Washington chapter of ATA, the National Capital Area Chapter of ATA, or NCATA.

TN: How long after joining ATA did you become involved in its internal workings?

TC: On Day One I became a member of the NCATA Professional Support Committee, and my first act was to organize a glossary exchange which captured national attention. Six months later I took over the chapter newsletter, which was gasping for breath, christened it "Capital Translator" (a pun),

drew the logo, and continued to edit it for 7 years. In 1983, I was elected to the ATA Board of Directors. While on the Board I acted as Chapters Liaison and served on the Legislative Committee. After my 3-year term was up, I declined nomination for a second term, but subsequently served on the national Nominating Committee and was Editor of the ATA Chronicle from 1987 to 1989.

TN: All who become involved in ATA's management have reasons for wanting to become involved. What were yours?

TC: I was very excited about ATA in the early 1980s. I had just become a full-time translator, and ATA introduced me to scores of peers, at least by name. There were enormous tasks begging to be tackled: translators independently solving the same terminology problems day in and day out, unaware that they had already been solved by other translators; the fundamental paradox of the importance of translation in the conduct of world affairs and keeping the planet from blowing up while outsiders seemed to regard translators as something akin to a dictaphone; the fact that the majority of the best translators and interpreters in the State Department and on the international scene could not be bothered with ATA; and so on. I wanted to work to change some of these things, if possible.

TN: What were your feelings or impressions of ATA when you joined, and did those feelings or impressions change after you became an official?

TC: First I have to say that I have never been a joiner; ATA is the first outfit that I have stayed in more than a couple of months, and I haven't joined anything else in the meantime. So maybe many of my impressions are inherent to any organization. Since my career has turned to full-time translation, it was only natural to join a professional organization of like practitioners. At first I attended both meetings of NCATA and the Society of Federal Linguists (SFL), but eventually lost interest in the latter. The initial days of NCATA were heady; there was a lot of enthusiastic talk, plus work was proceeding apace to draw up a constitution, hold elections, accreditation meetings, etc. I believed that a vital newsletter would be the spark of the group, and turned my energies toward that goal. We sailed through our probationary period with flying colors, and became a permanent chapter as soon as the ATA by-laws permitted. NCATA soon grew to become the largest chapter in the entire association.

I don't remember what I expected to be the impact of NCATA, or ATA, but I soon

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learned that most of the rhetoric in chapter meetings was just so much preaching to the converted and had negligible impact on the world outside the association. Moreover, only about 10% of the members, at most, were even willing to take an active role to keep the organization going. When I was elected to the national Board of Directors it was refreshing to be among people who were more committed. Then I came to realize that this commitment smacked more of ownership.

TN: *After becoming editor of the Capital Translator, there was a feeling among that newsletter's readership that you were producing an organ that was better than the ATA Chronicle in terms of content and journalistic style. Do you agree with that assessment?*

TC: How can I give an unbiased answer to this question?

TN: *Try another gulp of that Margarita. Or is that a Diet Pepsi? Give it your best shot.*

TC: OK, here we go. My seven years with the Capital Translator span the terms of three different editors of the ATA Chronicle: Donald Leffler, Alexandra Chciuk-Celt, and Leland D. Wright, Jr. During several months of early 1981 the Chronicle did not appear at all; the entire December 1982 issue was devoted to a donkey story translated into eleven different languages; in January 1983, two members of the ATA Board of Directors, Marilyn Daly and Etilvia Arjona, resigned to avoid a Board resolution, initiated by then-President Eva Berry, to remove them from the Board. Their offense was to serve on the Board of Directors of another association, the Translators and Interpreters Educational Society (TIES). Judging by the minutes of the ATA Board meetings, this capped ten months of rancorous debate and attorney maneuverings, during which at one Board meeting then-President Ben Teague had to declare threats of lawsuits "out of order". And yet, when it came to announcing these resignations to the ATA membership, Teague in the March 1983 issue stated that the two ladies had departed for personal reasons or tasks of higher priority. Mind you, I don't entirely fault the editor at the time (Chciuk-Celt), for it seems that the cover-up is a venerated institution in ATA.

TN: *Well, since you brought up the subject of "cover-up", let's say that it is no secret that discussion of the Chronicle has taken up a great deal of time at Board meetings, although it certainly appears that Board members have been less than eager to admit that. Did you feel, at least during your tenure as a Board member, that too much time was devoted to discussing the Chronicle, its purported shortcomings and failures?*

TC: There are some peculiar notions floating around with regard to the Chronicle editorship. One of these is that the editor has to be advised. I faulted both Chciuk-Celt for asking for advice and the Board for thinking it had the expertise (let alone, business) to give it. But the worst came during my tenure as ATA Director when three successive issues of the Chronicle were red-pencilled by members of the Board of Directors and sent back to Lee Wright via Thomas Clark, then a member of the Chronicle Editorial Board. I don't recall whether I denounced this out loud as a Board meeting, but I did express privately to the other members of the Board that if I were editor and that happened to me, I would resign immediately, and I refused to cooperate with it. In February 1988, I suggested to the Board of Directors that the ATA Chronicle Charter be amended to strike the language that the outgoing editor should "actively assist the President in recruiting and training the new editor", arguing that anyone who has to be recruited and trained should not be editor of the Chronicle. Besides, it is the incoming president who should have a free hand in naming his or her own editor.

TN: *According to some observers of the ATA scene, there seems to be an endless tug-of-war between the need to make the Chronicle reflect a good image of the Association and the need to provide a free and open forum of members' opinions. Is there any validity to that observation?*

TC: Are there mosquitoes in Minnesota? The central problem is that the ATA Chronicle is not "Amerika", the propaganda magazine sent to the USSR during the recent cold war to give a nice image of the United States. The overwhelming majority of Chronicle readership consists of the members themselves. Its main function is to convey hard facts and to provide the members with a forum to express themselves and to expose wrongdoers.

Having said this: - Of course, the Chronicle should project a professional image! Despite improvements in word processors and finally the advent of desktop publishing, the Chronicle of Marilyn Daly in 1979-80 still looked better than anything coming after it until - and this is just my opinion - possibly my own December 1987 issue (my November issue was totally out of control!). Yet, one of the reasons Daly was fired was for spending too much money on production! Also, the notion that everything must be sweetness and light to portray the best image

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,  
Translation News

In 16 years of full-time freelance translating, mostly for translation agencies, I have found only two causes of friction: poor translation quality and slow payment. If the translator does his job well and is paid promptly, "where's the beef?"

There is no such thing as "the translation company side" or "the freelancer side". Price is never an issue, since price is agreed upon before any work is done.

The agency and the freelancer are truly a team. Translators who are not team workers must blame their own attitudes and not the agencies for contrived problems that do not have to do with prompt payment. There is no sense in condemning an agency for not assigning you work if your quality is not up to par or your attitude is unbearable.

The [ATA] Chronicle is the proper vehicle for complaints about ATA functions. If you don't like the financial management, run for Auditor. If you feel elections are rigged, write to the Chronicle and the Board. Member reaction to your letter will tell you if you're reasonable or not. Energy spent on "sour grapes" publications would better be applied to helping the ATA move along to more worthy projects. Splinter parties have never made the grade in national politics, and in the long run they won't work in this field either.

In short, although the ATA may have its shortcomings, I prefer to hear about them from members through honorable channels, and then cast my votes accordingly. Let's accept the ATA as our representative body and get on with the job at hand. No thinking translator is being exploited by anybody and no thinking agency is being exploited by translators. We need one another.

Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Chester E. Claff, Jr., PhD  
Brockton, MA

To the Editor,  
Translation News

I don't know how I got on the mailing list for the third issue of TRANSLATION NEWS, but I'm glad I did.

I am not at this time an active freelance translator of Russian, my trade for the past decade or so. I quite recently went over to the "enemy" (to express myself in an idiom which is apparently familiar to some of your correspondents), and now am translations manager for Berlitz. Given the circuitous pathways of my checkered career (for want of a better word), I think I am specifically sensitive -- and sympathetic -- to the needs and problems on both sides of the barbed wire. And I want to stay in touch in ways that the ATA Chronicle alone will probably not permit.

Liv Tudge  
Canoga Park, CA

"EMERGING LANGUAGES" [contd. from page 2]

nation. An independent Quebec could bring about wide-reaching changes in language and translation patterns. The language issue has often been an incendiary one, generating resentment of English in Quebec and resentment of French in the predominantly English-speaking provinces. Those who feel that Quebec's independence is inevitable, speculate that a Canadian Federation, absent its French-speaking province, could very well revert to mono-lingual status, and Quebec, free of the "burden" of English, would become a pure French-speaking state. Today, thousands of products imported into Canada, irrespective of ultimate provincial destination, must be accompanied by literature and documentation in French and English, something that many Western Canadians, in particular, believe is far too costly and burdensome.

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HELP NEEDED CORNER

We recently came across some advertising by a translation agency domiciled somewhere west of the Pecos. The President of that organization described himself as holding a "PhD (ABD)". One academic with a sense of humor offered us the explanation of "PhD (All But Degree)". We responded to that by saying that we know lots of people with a B.A. (ABTTLY). That to the unknowing means "B.A. (All But The Three Last Years)". Anyway, since academic acronyms are often quite mysterious to us business types, perhaps one of our readers can set us straight on "PhD (ABD)". Seriously!

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"TRANSLATION NEWS" is published and distributed periodically by AdEx Translations International, Inc., as a public service to members of the American Translators Association.

It is in no way connected to the American Translators Association or to any of its publications, or the publications of any ATA Chapters or Divisions.

Reader comments and letters are welcome.

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of the Association is worthy of pre-glasnost "Pravda". The argument over the nature and role of the Chronicle was one I eventually lost, and the rest is cover-up (not history).

TN: *There were many complaints about the quality of the Chronicle under Lee Wright, complaints which focused on its purported absence of hard news, exchange of reader opinion, among others. What were your feelings about the Chronicle before assuming the editorship?*

TC: What I stated just before again applies. But I can add this: Lee Wright managed to pilot the Chronicle for four long years, which is like taking the Exxon Valdez down the Snake River, without running aground or despoiling the environment, while all the while being peppered with small-arms fire from the nitpickers and translator-warriors. Nevertheless, I wanted to change some things. First, the lead time of 6 weeks for ads and copy was excessive (I see that we have now gone back to that): my first goal was a total 10-day turnaround, with all materials due on the first of the month and the newsletter in the hands of the readers by the 10th. I don't believe I ever made it. My second goal was to spark up the appearance: With desktop publishing, liberal use of pictures, and laser printing, I hoped that the Chronicle could become a "page-turner". Last, but not least, I wanted to open it up, and "let it all hang out", although I knew I was embarking on perilous turf.

TN: *In reading the Board minutes of 1986, one gets the notion that you and Isabel Leonard, a former Chronicle editor, were pushing for a change of editorship. Is there any truth to this?*

TC: Having reviewed those same Board minutes, I'm wondering what language prompted your conclusion that Isabel Leonard and I were pushing for a change of editorship. As members of the Editorial Board, we did not support Wright in his request for an increase in the editor's honorarium, but I certainly don't recall making any suggestions or moves to shorten his tenure. I met with Karl Kummer in Cleveland in 1986 and we agreed that I would become editor when he (Kummer) became president in 1987; I never made any moves to hasten that process. The editor is not appointed for life; in my own case as well I did not foresee remaining more than two years.

TN: *Before becoming Chronicle editor, were you aware of the sometimes-turbulent history of Chronicle editors? Were you aware that*

*three editors previous to Wright had been dismissed? Did you believe that your editorship would be smooth sailing?*

TC: I had no illusions about a smooth voyage; especially after Marilyn Daly, who was our NCATA chapter president, was fired as Chronicle editor when I had only been in ATA some eight months. I hoped that the prestige which I had built up would act as a reserve that I could draw against. It was pure calculation; in fact, I didn't expect to last as long as I did.

TN: *Also in 1986, you went on record as saying that the Chronicle editor should act without an editorial board. Evidently, you began your tenure without such a board. But were you really able to function freely without "interference" from above?*

TC: When the Board had voted me in as editor in Albuquerque (in 1987, not 1986), I announced that I was dispensing with the Editorial Board. The Board of Directors immediately overruled me, so I said, "OK, we'll have a board, already", and selected Patricia Newman to make my place on the previous Editorial Board, retaining Tom Clark and Isabel Leonard. Ms. Newman's immediate prescient comment was "He will never consult with us anyway". Actually I did, a time or two. The thing is, I never passed an issue before the eyes of anyone for review before publication. I refused to work under those conditions. No one ever saw an issue before it was published except for those regrettably too-few times when I had time for an uninterested outside to proofread.

TN: *However, did you not show or leak articles or letters to Board members or other persons prior to publication?*

TC: "Leak" is hardly an appropriate term. Yes, on several occasions Board members asked me what was coming up for a particular edition. My response was always general and summarized. I also on a few occasions sent a letter from a reader to another reader because I felt that a simultaneous response would be appropriate. When that occurred, and it occurred infrequently, the judgment was exclusive mine. What I did not feel obliged to show to anyone were letters or articles which criticized policies or actions of the Board or other official ATA organs, or which attacked an individual's ideas. I finally came to the conclusion that rebuttals could wait for the next issue.

TN: *There were many positives about your Chronicle editorship. For example, the marked increase in advertising revenue. How did you manage to achieve that?*

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TC: There were several factors which contributed to this success. First, there was desktop publishing and laser printing. Second, the turnaround time was shortened so that institutions like MIIS could advertise a position whose closing date was just a few weeks away from when the inquiry came in. Third, I would take a copy in any form, format it and doll it up for no charge. These ads certainly would not stand comparison with the work of professional shops, but for free, they weren't a bad deal. Fourth, I pursued advertisers, or potential advertisers, followed up, catered to whims; in other words, for its money the Board got an editor and advertising manager wrapped into one. Incidentally, at the Board meeting in Seattle in October 1988, the Board expressed its appreciation by voting me a bonus of \$2400 based on 20% of the new advertising that I had brought it over and above what I inherited from my predecessor. No such bonus was voted in October 1989, although in my last 11 months, ads amounted to \$20,000 compared to \$16,000 for the previous 12 months. I understand that the present Advertising Manager, Bill Fry, receives a 20% commission on Chronicle ads and a 50% commission on ads for the convention program.

TN: Of course you didn't receive your 1989 bonus. You were a "bad boy". Anyway, moving on, right after you assumed the Chronicle editorship, you began publishing articles and letters which the grapevine had it as "controversial". The rumor was that many Board members looked dimly upon publication of these letters and articles. Is there any substance to that rumor?

TC: Actually, up till February 1989, say for my first 14 months in office, things seems (at least to me) to be going half-way smoothly with the Board. About January of 1989 I announced to then-President-elect Deanna Hammond that I did not wish to be reappointed in October, in case she had any intention of doing so, despite my Washingtonian sensitivities about turning myself into a lame duck. I felt that she should have ample time and opportunity to look for a replacement. This was quickly followed by the threat of a lawsuit by Bernard Bierman and a general downward spiral. But up until that time comments from Board members were mostly complaints about typos or my messing up their articles. The quick turnaround and lack of proofreading resulted in issues that were riddled with typos, and a few anal-retentives couldn't sleep until they had pointed them out. Also, I

think that Karl Kummer acted as a buffer; people seemed to complain to him rather than to me directly.

TN: Were you at any time told to curtail publication of pieces critical of ATA management (besides, of course, the letter by John Bukacek in the September 1989 edition of the Chronicle)?

TC: You are laboring under a misconception. The only material I recall being specifically forbidden to print was (1) any article or letter by Bernard Bierman or advertisement by his company until he dropped his threat of legal action (over the Executive Board's failure to keep written records of its proceedings), and (2) anything having to do with Dale Cunningham.

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In Part 2 of this interview, Ted Crump talks about the Board's state-of-seige mentality, his own inner conflicts with demands from above for managed news and his ultimate clash with what he calls ATA's "Royal Family". He also sets forth his ideas on the freelance-agency relationship, and turns up the heat full blast on the Board's recent action to curtail discussion of translation rates. Don't miss this provocative insight into the inner workings of America's largest organization of translators. You'll find it ONLY in TRANSLATION NEWS.

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Les Petits Riens  
[oder Eine Kleine Nichtmusik]  
from the New York Times, July 5, 1990.  
"The Justice Department filed a suit today against the American Institute of Architects contending that the professional group unreasonably restrained price competition.  
"...the department invoked the Sherman Antitrust Act...  
"The act has been successfully applied by the Justice Department and the FTC against professional associations, including those representing civil engineers, accountants and lawyers.  
"...the filing of the suit also reflects the increased aggressiveness of the antitrust division...  
"The division has also undertaken a price fixing investigation...of some of the country's major airlines.  
"...the antitrust division indicted three dentists in Arizona for illegally setting patient fees.  
"The suit charges the AIA...prohibited members from engaging in competitive bidding, discounting fees.  
"The AIA...would be prohibited from adopting a code of ethics whose aim is to discourage competition."  
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