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TED CRUZ & LARRY PRATT: YOU CAN TELL A MAN WHO BOOZES BY THE COMPANY HE CHOOSES

From almost the instant that then-Senator Barack Obama first appeared on the national scene as a credible -- though largely unknown -- presidential hopeful back in late 2007, conservative pundits, political operatives, commentators and bloggers linked his name



GOA Head Larry Pratt

to those of elementary education theorist (and 1960's radical) [Bill Ayers](#) (whom Obama knew) and controversial African American pastor [Jeremiah Wright](#) (whose church the Obamas had belonged to for many years). To those banging the drum of linkage, the message was clear: that because Ayers (and his wife Bernadine Dohrn) are/were founders of the radical '60s Weather Underground, Barack Obama was/is/and always shall be, a dangerous, America-hating radical; and that because Jeremiah Wright had over the course of

more than two decades delivered many sermons deemed both anti-Semitic and anti-White, one must conclude that Barack Obama was/is/and always shall be both an anti-Semite and a racist. Some would call this "guilt by association." Or, to use the lyrics of American songwriter Benjamin Hapgood Burt's 1933 ditty:

"You can tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses . . ."

Let us, for the sake of argument, **agree** with the *a priori* logic inherent in the above-noted relationships: to wit, that one can indeed infer a tremendous amount about an individual's political [weltanschauung](#) by paying attention to who the people on their "A-list" are. Well, as our British cousins would have it, *What is sauce for the goose, is sauce for*

the gander, meaning, that if it is proper to deduce that Barack Obama is as radical as Bill Ayers and as racist as Jeremiah Wright, it is *equally* proper to deduce that Texas Senator Ted Cruz is as fascistic, deranged and unutterably dangerous as right-wing icon [Larry Pratt](#), Executive Director of [Gun Owners of America](#).

Now, readers of *The K.F. Stone Weekly* are no doubt quite familiar with Senator Ted Cruz - and not just because we've have been writing about him for quite some time. (See my essay [Cruz Control from October 2013](#).) No, you dear readers are familiar with the Texas senator - and Republican presidential hopeful - because you, unlike the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens, follow politics closely. But what about Larry Pratt? Who is he and what is Ted Cruz's relationship to him? And more importantly, what—in keeping with our "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" meme - what does that relationship tell us about the *real* Ted Cruz?



First, let's meet Larry Pratt:

Pratt, who was born in Camden, New Jersey in 1942, and earned a degree in political science from American University in 1964, took over leadership of Gun Owners of America (GOA) in 1976, a year after its founding. GOA is Larry Pratt, just as Larry Pratt is GOA. And Pratt has long had ties to militia groups and white supremacists. GOA -- and Pratt -- are a militant 2nd Amendment organization that prides itself on being "far to the right of the National Rifle Association (NRA)." *Unlike* the larger NRA (which has about 4.5 million members), GOA (which has approximately 150,000 dues-paying members) believes that the reason there must be unfettered access to any and every type of gun, rifle or weapon of destruction is *not* to hunt or defend oneself against crime or your garden variety criminal, but rather in order for "real patriotic Americans" to be properly armed against a government they truly believe is about to institute martial law. Pratt has long [contended](#) that "The Second Amendment is not about hunting, it's not about target shooting, it's about Democrats who want to take away our rights."

Pratt and GOA believe that President Obama is out to "commandeer the military," and has publicly stated that the president is "definitely capable of something as evil" as leading black Americans to massacre white Americans. Pratt has informed the world that if Obama fails to hijack the military, he will enlist undocumented immigrants into a private "Praetorian guard" and advise police officers to go after people with conservative bumper stickers. Last March, speaking on his radio talk-

show, Pratt [said](#) he hoped the president would "learn from the example of Charles I," who was executed for treason in 1649.

In an interview last year, Pratt said that being afraid of assassination was "a healthy fear" for members of Congress to have, because that's what makes them "behave." When Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, who had felt threatened by one of GOA's members, complained about his comments, Pratt doubled down, saying that elected officials should fear "the cartridge box" and accusing the congresswoman of being "foolish" and having "a hissy fit." Later, he boasted that Democratic proponents of stricter gun laws are "afraid of getting shot and they ought to be!"

Pratt is so pathologically over-the-edge that he was even asked to leave Pat Buchanan's 1996 presidential campaign (of which he was national co-chair) when it was learned that he had spoken at a number of militia events featuring neo-Nazi and white supremacist activists like Pete Peters. *(n.b. Up until his death in 2011, Peters was Pastor of the LaPorte, Colorado Church of Christ and head of its "Scriptures for America Worldwide" international outreach ministry. Pete Peters had been a leading anti-Jewish, anti-minority and anti-gay propagandist. He was a proponent of Christian Identity, which argues that Jews are spiritually degraded and pose a threat to civilization, that blacks and other people of color are inferior to whites, that homosexuals should be executed and that northern European whites and their American descendants are the "chosen people" of scriptural prophecy.)*

You get the picture: Larry Pratt is one scary dude, who freely associates with even scarier dudes, whose collective psychopathy would have caused Dr. Freud to get out of the business. "But where," you ask, "where does Ted Cruz fit into this sordid picture?"

Just this: Last month (May 27, 2015 to be precise), Ted Cruz had what is tantamount to a love-fest with Larry Pratt and activists from GOA at a "tele-town hall meeting." At the meeting -- which was captured on tape -- Cruz praised and pandered to them, saying, "I agree with Ronald Reagan who said we must paint in bold colors and not pale pastels, that's why I'm running and that's one of the things I love about GOA is GOA has never been accused of painting in pale pastels."

Cruz told his audience that they were "true patriots," and then went on to say "GOA endorsed me early on when I ran for the Senate and played a critical part in helping get me elected and sending me from the state of Texas to represent 27 million Texans." For his part, Larry Pratt told adoring followers that Cruz "has not disappointed us and I'm certain that he's not going to disappoint us," and rejoiced that "everybody understands that Ted Cruz runs the United States House."

Well now, if Barack Obama can be tied to both Bill Ayers and Jeremiah Wright -- and by extension all their thoughts, deeds and associations, whether real or imagined --

what of Ted Cruz and Larry Pratt -- and by extension all *his* thoughts, deeds and associations -- which in his case can be fully documented?

Can one truly "tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses?"

In the case of Ted Cruz, one must conclude that answer is "yes" -- that he, along with his militia-loving, racist, anti-Semitic buddy Larry Pratt, is a dangerous binge drinker who has long been swilling at the font of fanaticism.

Senator Cruz: Have you ever considered going on the wagon . . . ?

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