

It is pretty easy to malign Congress. A newspaper article which Mr. Bennett now disavows said one of the things he was going to look into is nepotism. That is a dirty word. But there is no law against employing a relative. As a matter of fact, and I just happened to see Mr. Reid here and I mean nothing personal about it, and I was not thinking of the newspaper he was formerly connected with, but the newspaper in my district and the New York Times, to name one, are family businesses. I see nothing wrong with it.

The people who have owned the New York Times for years have trained their sons or their sons-in-law, or some other relatives to run that paper and that is all right with me. I have a chain of papers in my State in which the family, there are four brothers, every one of them edits a paper, and now the sons and grandsons are moving into the business.

We haven't done anything about nepotism, Mr. Chairman, because there is no law against it. It did happen in Mr. Powell's case that the employee who was not working happened to be legally his wife, but it was not because it was nepotism. It was because she was not complying with the law of either being in New York or in Washington, D.C., that we took her from the payroll.

There are a lot of other things that I could say in defense of this committee, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to drag this out.

I do think that however you handle this, there should be some safeguards written in. I don't think, as Mr. Pepper said yesterday, and then retracted, that when there is a whisper there should be an investigation, because, as I said on the floor, Mr. Latta said my amendment changed it, I don't know whether he also remembers that it was a vote of 25 to 1 showing how the Members were worried about it, that if you were to set up a committee which could entertain charges without them being sworn and by rumor or by unsigned letter or even by signed letter, that you would be setting up a self-immolation bill, those are my words, for Congressmen, because I have had personal experience of a nobody being paid \$50 to make charges against me which later were withdrawn before they would have been thrown out.

I know that Congressmen are fair game. I remember a column that was written about me, and maybe I am stupid for bringing this up, but, as I have said before, any trip I have taken my name has been on the ticket, and if anyone went with me, their name was either on the ticket or on the manifest. I remember a column that was written by a columnist, now deceased, castigating me for taking Mr. Petinard along as one of a volunteer staff to the NATO meeting. That same columnist's father-in-law, who is also deceased, was a Senator, and I have seen this columnist all over Europe traveling in Embassy cars and living in the Ambassador's residence. But that was not wrong; he was a reporter.

Well, I have been pretty serious. In a lighter vein, I had a lady write to me from my district the other day saying, "I haven't seen this gentleman's column lately. Where can I get in touch with him?"

I said, "Knowing him as I did, the best place I would think to try for the late so-and-so would be Hell."

There are a lot more things I could say in defense of the House Administration Committee, Mr. Chairman, but I will submit to your questions.