

Hill Relatives Still Cling to Payroll

By Jack Anderson

Members of Congress used to bolster their family finances by putting relatives on the public payroll. This practice, known as nepotism, was outlawed six years ago. Yet a few veteran legislators are still handing out fat federal paychecks to their relatives.

They get away with it under a "grandfather" clause, which permits relatives who were on the payroll before 1967 to continue to collect government salaries. But their employment, though quite legal, clearly violates the spirit of the law.

Years ago, when we first started shaking the congressional payroll, hundreds of relatives fell out like overripe fruit from a tree. Almost half of the members had relatives drawing government pay. The spotlight of publicity sent most of them scurrying for other jobs.

We continued our payroll searches until the number of relatives was down to barely 50. The passage of the antinepotism law finally drove all except a few hangers-on from the payroll. Here are the stubborn survivors:

Ethics Arbiter

• House ethics chairman Melvin Price (D-Ill.), is still paying his brother Raymond a government salary over \$14,000 a year. The arbiter of congress-

sional ethics insists this doesn't violate the "spirit of the law."

• Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Calif.), a ranking member of the ethics committee, pays his receptionist-wife Vernice a \$12,500 House salary.

• Rep. Ken Gray (D-Ill.), the Beau Brummell of the House, pays his father, Thomas Gray, \$20,000 a year out of the public till to run his congressional office in West Frankfort, Ill.

• Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.), next in line for the chairmanship of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, married his appointments secretary, Audrey, who as his wife still draws \$8,500 a year for "part-time work."

• Rep. Otto Passman (D-La.), the stingiest man in Congress with foreign aid money, is more generous with his brother Otis who draws a \$15,000 House salary. Passman says he returns about \$3,000 of his payroll allotment to the Treasury each month. His brother's salary, therefore, is "a helluva lot lower than what I could pay him."

District Director

• Rep. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), keeps his brother Andrew on the payroll for \$14,000 as a "district director."

• Rep. Edward Patten (D-N.J.), pays his wife Anna an annual \$13,500 to be his secretary.

• On the Senate side, Sen. Milton Young (R-N.D.), married

his executive secretary, Patricia, and continues to keep her on the payroll for \$14,000 a year.

FOOTNOTE: Congressional salaries, keeping pace with inflation, have climbed steadily to the present pinnacle of \$42,500 a year. With all the fringe benefits, this is considered ample in most constituencies to keep the wolf from the door.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Contributions to President Nixon's reelection campaign may have bought yet another federal appointment.

Associates of James Quello, the President's anticipated nominee to the Federal Communications Commission, poured at least \$120,000 into the Nixon campaign coffers. Quello himself kicked in \$2,200.

The FCC has perhaps more impact on the daily lives of Americans than any other federal agency. It lays down the regulations for commercial television and determines how much the telephone industry can raise its rates.

Now the administration plans to replace the only consumer-oriented commissioner with an industry man whose business friends donated heavily to the President's campaign.

The donations came from executives and stockholders of WJR radio in Detroit, and its parent firm, Capital Cities

Broadcasting. Quello was a WJR employe for 25 years before he retired as a vice president.

Quello has already run into some stiff opposition from citizen groups, including Ralph Nader's raiders. Nicholas Johnson, the commissioner Quello is stated to replace, has also gone on record opposing him.

Besides objecting to putting "the cat in charge of the cream," Quello's critics have cited a WJR internal memo which charges the Detroit broadcaster with being "insensitive" to minority problems.

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE: A new magazine about prisons called "In" is being published by ex-con Wesley Noble Graham, who once edited prison magazines from inside the federal prison system.

Printed in Iowa City, Iowa, it offers convicts \$25 an article and a thorough assessment of their poems, stories and articles by professors at the University of Iowa. The slick paper magazine, so far, is long on literary merit, and short on advertisers and subscribers.

But "In" has other problems. Graham, a short time after his first issue, suffered a heart attack and is now trying to get out his second issue from a hospital bed.

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