



In Fairness to The Presidency

John D. Lofton Jr.

AMONG President Nixon's defenders, none have been more virulent in their criticisms of those considered to be the enemy than Rabbi Baruch Korff, head of the National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency.

Over the past several months, Rabbi Korff has launched attacks on the media and the House Judiciary Committee which have ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous.

In the first category, I would put some of his remarks about the leaks coming out of the committee.

In the second category, I would put his statement characterizing "the media" as "assassins." Also in this latter grouping would be his absurdly simplistic declaration to the Providence, R.I., Journal-Bulletin that the media "want to lynch the President and bring down the government and we want to uphold it."

★ ★ ★

IN ANY EVENT, the rabbi is very big on fairness, particularly as he believes it should be applied to President Nixon. But when it comes to those enemies, it does not appear that the rabbi practices what he preaches.

In a recent issue of the Fairness to the Presidency Committee's newsletter, the headline over the lead article asked: "Who is Bernard W. Nussbaum?" We were then told who he is: a senior associate special counsel on the House Judiciary Committee.

But this is not all. According to infor-

mation "culled from his early days at Columbia College, he is described as an 'extremist' and reputedly was a member of the Young Socialists League which had been on the attorney general's list.

It is also alleged that during the 1956 Hungarian revolt, Nussbaum "set up booths on the mall in front of the library with signs, pamphlets and speeches defending the Soviet Union as having merely responded to the requests for help from the 'legitimate Hungarian government to combat reactionaries."

The Judiciary Committee senior attorney is also said to have, while in college voiced "nearly savage hatred of Richard Nixon," at one time distributing "hate leaflets" about the then Vice President with a "doctored photo" of Nixon showing a face contorted to look like "a madman with rabies."

★ ★ ★

WOW, pretty hot stuff, I think, so I check it out. Nussbaum denies everything. A Phi Beta Kappa grad from Columbia and Harvard Law School, former assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and presently a law professor on leave from Columbia, he says everything alleged is false except that he is a senior associate special counsel on the Judiciary Committee.

When I tell Rabbi Korff all this, he says: "Well, check it out." I tell him I'd like to, so where is your evidence to back up your charges? He got the information from "a friend" he cannot name.