

As a Democrat who will have no complaints if House Speaker Jim Wright's colleagues on the House Ethics Committee decide to censure him for his "friendly" relationship with the vanity press that published his book of memoirs, let me remind partisans of all stripes of the old saw: "If you want to make omelettes, you've got to break eggs."

Here the "omelette" is a higher ethical and behavioral standard for elected and appointed officials, and the process of achieving that worthy goal will, in the imperfect world which makes the goal itself desirable, necessarily involve less-than-perfect decision-making.

That said, what is so unreasonable about the rejection of John Tower for secretary of defense? Gary Hart was hounded out of a presidential campaign for infidelity. Tower is guilty of the same offense, plus what some report to be public drunkenness, plus having received, as a consultant, large payments from the same defense industry he would be buying our weapons from.

It seems to me that the real partisan votes were the ones that went for Tower in spite of these liabilities.

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