

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SURPRISED BY CIVILETTI'S FAILURE TO NAME SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today expressed surprise at the failure of Attorney General Ben Civiletti to respond affirmatively to the request of several Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans, who had asked Mr. Civiletti to recommend the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate SEC charges against Treasury Secretary G. William Miller.

"The Ethics in Government Act was designed to serve this very purpose," said Dole. "To fail to utilize this machinery in this most obvious of circumstances renders the whole special prosecutor procedure moot, it seems to me. It will be nothing but a dead letter, thus effectively circumventing the intent of Congress as expressed when the law was passed. How ironic it is when an Administration that was swept into office in the wake of Watergate cannot effectively respond to serious charges raised by one of its own regulatory agencies against one of its own cabinet officers," said Dole.

The 1978 law, which received strong bipartisan support, includes provisions which Dole and other invoked in early February to request that the Attorney General recommend to the Federal Judiciary that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate the allegations made by the Securities and Exchanges Commission. The allegations are that Mr. Miller knew of certain foreign bribes and unauthorized entertainment of U.S. Defense Department officials by Textron, a company with whom Mr. Miller served as chairman.

"I have no quarrel with Mr. Miller," Dole said, "but we do have a responsibility under the Ethics Act. I would think that Mr. Miller would want the matter properly resolved."