

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS CARTER-CIVILETTI CONVERSATION A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON-- Disclosure that President Carter and Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti discussed the Billy Carter case last month "is a startling disclosure that totally alters the complexion of this already bizarre case," according to Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas).

Dole, who learned of the conversation only minutes after attending a meeting of a special Judiciary Committee subcommittee formed to investigate Billy Carter's Libyan connection, said "this new information totally negates a steady stream of White House denials of any White House--Justice Department discussion of the case. To my mind, a June 17 conversation between the President and the Attorney General of Billy's need to register is about as blatant a violation of confidentiality as one can imagine," said Dole.

"This clearly will hurt the President, perhaps fatally," said Dole. "He spoke of an Administration with one standard of justice for all Americans in 1976-- clearly a laudable goal-- now he's turned around and given the American people this."

Dole added, "When I appeared on the 'Today' show this past Tuesday, Chief White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler told the American people there had been no discussion between any member of the White House staff and the Justice Department concerning the Billy Carter case. It seems to me that a discussion of the case between the Chief Executive and the Attorney General would offer ample proof that Mr. Cutler was making a misstatement, at best," said Dole.

"I can say in all candor that I believe this latest disclosure will stiffen the resolve of all members of the Committee, Republican and Democrat alike, to conduct an exhaustive investigation to get to the bottom of this increasingly complicated case."