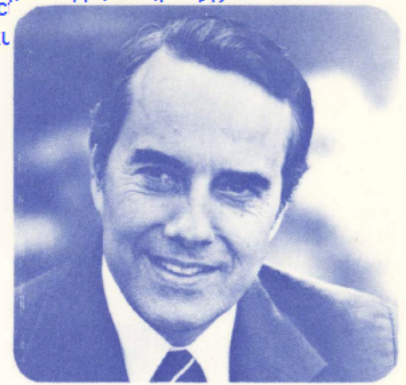


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1980

CONTACT: BILL KATS
(316) 263-4956

CIVILETTI ACTIONS VERGE ON OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, DOLE SAYS

WICHITA, Kan. -- Press reports yesterday and today that Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti withheld information concerning payments to Billy Carter by the Libyan government from the Justice Department's investigative unit "raise serious questions, including the possibility that the attorney general of the United States may have been involved in the obstruction of justice," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today.

Dole, who is a member of the special subcommittee investigating the Billy Carter affair, also took strong exception to statements made by the subcommittee's chairman, Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), who has maintained that Civiletti acted properly in withholding the information.

"This revelation raises the most serious questions about the propriety of Mr. Civiletti's conduct in the Billy Carter case," Dole said. "I disagree with Senator Bayh's contention that the attorney general acted correctly in withholding this information from his own investigators. It seems to me that this action has compromised the integrity of a Justice Department investigation into the Billy Carter matter, and that our subcommittee should place the highest priority on an exhaustive detailed look into the handling of this information.

"These new reports mean that Mr. Civiletti will be facing intense scrutiny when he returns from Honolulu.

"One of the reasons given in his statement was that Mr. Civiletti did not want to compromise the intelligence sources -- yet the investigators handling this case are part of the section of the criminal division which investigates espionage cases. They are cleared for and routinely handle the most highly classified and sensitive information the government possesses. It is difficult to understand why Mr. Civiletti felt he couldn't disclose this information to this division.

"The press yesterday also carried an account of Mr. Civiletti instructing Joel Lisker, the chief investigator in the Billy Carter case, in early June not to take further action for 10 days. In the meantime, the attorney general met with President Carter and advised him, in a private conversation, that Billy Carter should register as a foreign agent."