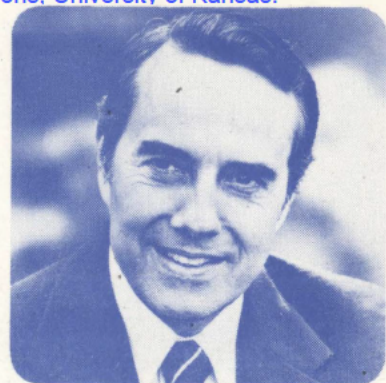


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING CIVILETTI POINT TO OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

WICHITA, KS -- Press reports yesterday and today that Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti withheld reports on payments to Billy Carter by the Libyan government from his department's investigative team, "raises serious questions, including the possibility that the Attorney General deliberately obstructed justice."

Dole also said he takes exception to Subcommittee chairman Birch Bayh's statement that Civiletti acted "properly" in not forwarding the information.

Dole said that the new revelations of Civiletti's involvement "means he's going to be facing intense scrutiny when he returns from overseas."

Dole said in a prepared statement, "The statement of Attorney General Civiletti released by the Justice Department yesterday, responding to serious press allegations about his conduct in the widening Billy Carter investigation, attempts to justify Mr. Civiletti's conduct in withholding key information from his own criminal investigators. Also, yesterday, the Select Billy Carter Investigating Committee received testimony from Associate Deputy Attorney Robert Keuch describing the Departmental procedures in conducting investigations of Foreign Agents Registration Act violations. In response to my questions, Mr. Keuch indicated that it was "unusual" for the Attorney General to play any role in these investigations because they were normally handled at lower levels in the Department.

"One of the reasons given in Mr. Civiletti's statement for the withholding of this information as to Billy receiving a payment from the Libyans in April 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 which the government possesses. It is difficult to understand why Mr. Civiletti felt he could not disclose this information to this Division," Dole stated.

"The press yesterday also carried an account of Mr. Civiletti instructing Joel Lisker, the chief investigator in the Billy Carter case, telling Lisker in early June to not take further action for ten days. In the meantime, the Attorney General met with President Carter and advised him, in a private conversation in which the President's counsel, Lloyd Cutler, was excluded, that Billy Carter should register as a foreign agent.

"These facts and allegations raise the most serious questions about the propriety of Mr. Civiletti's conduct in the Billy Carter case. Already a call has been made for his resignation by the A.O.A. There is open speculation that Mr. Civiletti willfully obstructed the investigation.

"I must reserve judgment until all the facts are known, but the special counsel to the select subcommittee should assign top priority to this matter.

"It is our expectation that the Justice Department officials who participated in the Billy Carter investigation, including Attorney General Civiletti, will be submitting sworn testimony in appearances before the subcommittee in the near future," said Dole. "The sooner they do so, the better," he concluded.