

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 25, 1993

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**TEXT OF DOLE LETTER TO BIDEN REQUESTING JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON W.H. TRAVEL OFFICE AFFAIR**

The following is a copy of a letter from Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole to the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Joe Biden (D-Delaware). A similar letter was sent to the Ranking Republican Member on the Committee, Senator Orin Hatch (R-Utah).

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Joe:

I am writing to request that the Judiciary Committee investigate what I believe to be a potentially serious abuse of power by Executive Branch officials.

News reports suggest that the FBI's chief spokesman was summoned to the White House last Friday to meet with the White House communications staff, the White House legal counsel, and with David Watkins, the head of the White House Office of Management. After the meeting, the FBI spokesman reportedly returned to his office to draft a highly unusual statement indicating there was "sufficient information for the FBI to determine that additional criminal investigation was warranted" into the practices of the White House Travel Office, whose entire staff was recently dismissed under questionable circumstances. The White House communications office subsequently released the statement, reportedly without the FBI's approval and without even the FBI's knowledge.

Attorney General Reno has publicly--and rightly--complained about this apparent attempt to politicize the FBI. And I wholeheartedly agree with a high-ranking FBI official who is quoted in today's Washington Times as saying: "The FBI cannot be identified as a friend or foe of any administration. It has to be perceived as neutral in all cases. On its surface, this unusual announcement served no purpose other than to legitimize a political decision."

Joe, we need to get all the facts out on the table. I am sure you agree that the American people deserve to have confidence in an FBI that will make its decisions free of political considerations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole
BOB DOLE