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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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WHITEWATER SELECT COMMITTEE

IT'S BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT NEITHER DEMOCRATS NOR REPUBLICANS WILL TOLERATE ANY PERCEPTION OF A WHITEWASH OF THE WHITEWATER-MADISON CONTROVERSY. IT'S ALSO BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APPEAR TO BE WORKING TOGETHER TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.

IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CHOOSES A SPECIAL COUNSEL, AS I BELIEVE SHE SHOULD, THAT WOULD BE STEP ONE. THAT'S WHY I WROTE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO -- NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE -- URGING HER TO USE HER EXISTING LEGAL AUTHORITY TO APPOINT A WHITEWATER-MADISON SPECIAL COUNSEL...SOMEONE OF STATURE, WITH A REPUTATION FOR COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. I EVEN SENT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL A LIST OF SEVEN POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB, INCLUDING SOME DEMOCRATS. THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, USA TODAY, AND THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER ARE AMONG THE PAPERS THAT HAVE ALL EDITORIALIZED IN SUPPORT OF A WHITEWATER-MADISON SPECIAL COUNSEL. AND, SPECIAL-COUNSEL ADVOCATES ALSO INCLUDE DEMOCRATS DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, BILL BRADLEY, BOB KERREY, CHUCK ROBB, JOE LIEBERMAN, JIM EXON, CAROL MOSELY-BRAUN, TOM HARKIN, AND RUSS FEINGOLD. UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THESE ARGUMENTS SEEMED TO PERSUADE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. WE'LL SEE WHAT IMPACT THE WHITE HOUSE'S STATEMENT WILL HAVE.

BUT, APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COUNSEL SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE CONGRESS FROM DOING ITS JOB. REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER ACTIONS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY OR MAY NOT TAKE, IT'S TIME FOR THE CONGRESS, ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS, TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WHITEWATER-MADISON CONTROVERSY, JUST AS WE HAVE DONE IN PREVIOUS SITUATIONS INVOLVING POTENTIAL MISCONDUCT BY HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES, I WILL THEREFORE INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A BIPARTISAN SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE WHITEWATER-MADISON MATTER. REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB MICHEL WILL INTRODUCE A SIMILAR RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE. I HOPE OUR DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN US IN SUPPORTING AND PARTICIPATING AS REPUBLICANS DID ON THE IRAN-CONTRA SELECT COMMITTEE.

IN FACT, BACK IN 1986, I URGED CONGRESS TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A BIPARTISAN SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE IRAN-CONTRA. IT'S ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED TO HAVE SO MANY SERIOUS QUESTIONS WITHOUT EVEN ONE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

WHILE I MAKE NO JUDGMENTS AS TO THE VERACITY OF ANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS, MANY OF THOSE THAT HAVE SURFACED ARE SERIOUS. THAT'S I WHY JOINED WITH SENATOR AL D'AMATO IN URGING A FULL BANKING COMMITTEE HEARING INTO THE WHITEWATER CONTROVERSY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEES HAVE DENIED REQUESTS OF THE MINORITY PARTY TO GET HEARINGS INTO THE WHITEWATER-MADISON MATTER, AND THAT'S ONE REASON WE NEED A SPECIAL BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE.

AS IT TURNS OUT, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED BY CAREER PROSECUTORS -- NO DOUBT BRIGHT, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS -- BUT INDIVIDUALS WITH APPARENTLY LITTLE OR NO EXPERIENCE IN THE AREA OF BANK-FRAUD PROSECUTIONS. THEY REPORTEDLY HAVEN'T EVEN QUESTIONED JAMES McDUGAL, WHO IS PERHAPS THE KEY FIGURE IN THE WHOLE WHITEWATER-MADISON MATTER.

(MORE)

NOW, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE A REPUBLICAN CONSPIRACY BEHIND EVERY WHITEWATER-MADISON ALLEGATION. BUT IT WAS PRESIDENT CLINTON HIMSELF WHO CLAIMED IN "PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST," HIS 1992 CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT, AND I QUOTE: "WASHINGTON STOOD BY WHILE QUICK-BUCK ARTISTS BROUGHT DOWN THE SAVINGS-AND-LOAN INDUSTRY, LEAVING THE REST OF US WITH A \$500 BILLION BILL."

WELL, IT WOULD SEEM BASED ON THAT STATEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO HELP US GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING JAMES McDOUGAL, SUSAN McDOUGAL, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM HE APPARENTLY ASSOCIATED AS GOVERNOR. IF THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG, AS THEY HAVE SAID, THEY SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

AND REMEMBER: THE FAILURE OF MADISON GUARANTY COST THE TAXPAYERS SOMEWHERE AROUND \$50 MILLION.

WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS, WE MUST TRY TO DETERMINE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A THOROUGH, INDEPENDENT, AND COMPETENT REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE WHITEWATER-MADISON MATTER.

CONGRESS, ALONG WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, MUST MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITY.

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