

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS THAT INDEPENDENT COUNSEL BE NAMED, COMMITTEE MEETING ADVANCED

WASHINGTON-- Saying that revelations late Friday of a Civiletti-Carter discussion of Billy Carter's registration case on June 17 "makes this a whole new ballgame," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called for the appointment of an Independent Counsel to assist the special Senate Subcommittee which is looking into Billy Carter's relationship with Libya.

Sent Letter

Dole, in a letter to Subcommittee Chairman Senator Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.) and ranking Republican member Senator Strom Thurmond (R.-S.C.), called for the naming of an Independent Counsel "in order to avoid a constitutional crisis."

Dole added that the time has come "to summon the best legal resources in the country to assist us in our deliberations."

Dole, who originally asked for an investigation in a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.) on Friday, July 18, also asked that the next meeting of the special Subcommittee be moved up to this Monday, July 28, rather than Tuesday, as originally planned.

"Clearly this case is far more serious than we'd even known at our Friday afternoon meeting," said Dole Saturday. "I believe it is important that we meet as soon as possible."

Special Prosecutor Not Appropriate

In the letter, copies of which were sent to Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D.-W.V.) and Minority Leader Howard Baker (R.-Tenn.), Dole wrote that, "In my view these rapidly unfolding developments, as well as its timing in the presidential selection process, make it imperative that the Senate Subcommittee move as rapidly as possible to investigate and report its findings to the Senate and the American people. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor would involve weeks of delay during the presidential campaign. Other choices are equally unappealing. . . I therefore recommend that you appoint an Independent Counsel with impeccable legal credentials to conduct our investigation. . ."