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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, January 7, 1994

Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

SPECIAL COUNSEL UPDATE

DOLE SENDS RENO LIST OF POTENTIAL "WHITEWATER" SPECIAL COUNSELS:

ATTORNEY GENERAL CURRENTLY HAS AUTHORITY

TO APPOINT COUNSEL WITH REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole has sent a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno posing a series of questions about the Justice Department's investigation of the so-called Whitewater affair, and once again urging her to use the authority she already has to appoint a special counsel to independently investigate the matter. Writing "if you appointed as special counsel a person with a reputation for integrity and competence, there will be no second-guessing of the special counsel's investigation," Dole included a list of people "whom I believe would be suitable for appointment as special counsel." The text of Senator Dole's letter follows:

Dear Attorney General Reno:

I am deeply troubled by news reports suggesting that the Justice Department "negotiated" with Mr. David Kendall, the Clinton family's personal attorney, over the scope of a Justice Department subpoena for documents contained in the so-called Whitewater files. In fact, it has been reported that the idea of the subpoena may have originated with White House officials, who reportedly view the subpoena as a way of preventing public disclosure of the Whitewater documents and of impeding Congressional investigations into the Whitewater allegations.

Attorney General Reno, my question to you is simply this: Who really is in charge of the Justice Department's investigation? Is it the White House or is it the Justice Department's career prosecutors, as you claim?

Can public officials now request that the Justice Department issue a subpoena so that potentially embarrassing documents will be shielded from public disclosure? Is there any precedent for this approach?

As you know, the Justice Department recently issued a subpoena for documents in the possession of Senator Bob Packwood. Did the Department consult with Senator Packwood or his attorneys prior to issuing this subpoena? Did Senator Packwood or his attorneys have the opportunity to negotiate with the Justice Department over the scope of the subpoena prior to its issuance?

Quite frankly, if the news reports are correct, it is difficult for me to understand the Justice Department's involvement in "negotiating" a subpoena with Mr. Kendall and the White House. Needless to say, these revelations fuel public skepticism about the independence and seriousness of the Justice Department's Whitewater investigation that you claim is now underway.

Once again, I urge you to exercise your statutory authority to appoint a special counsel to ensure that the Whitewater allegations receive a thorough and independent review. It is in the President's interest for you to stop hiding behind the fact

that the Independent Counsel Act has not been reauthorized. If you appointed as special counsel a person with a reputation for integrity and competence, there will be no second-guessing of the special counsel's investigation. Recent editorials in the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, and The Philadelphia Inquirer all make this very point.

Enclosed is a list of seven individuals whom I believe would be suitable for appointment as special counsel.

Attorney General Reno, nothing less than your credibility and the credibility of the Administration are at stake here. If no wrongdoing has occurred, then the President deserves to have his name cleared in a manner in which the public will have complete confidence.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE

POSSIBLE WHITEWATER SPECIAL COUNSELS

- * Michael Baylson, partner, Duane, Morris & Heckscher, and former U.S. Attorney
- * Griffin B. Bell, partner, King & Spalding, and former Attorney General of the United States during the Carter Administration
- * Robert S. Bennett, partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
- * <u>Benjamin R. Civiletti</u>, partner, Venable, Baetjer, Howard & Civiletti, and former Attorney General during the Carter Administration
- * A.B. Culvahouse, partner, O'Melveny and Myers, and former counsel to President Reagan
- * Anton R. Valukas, partner, Jenner & Block, and former U.S. Attorney
- * <u>Dan K. Webb</u>, partner, Winston & Strawn, and former U.S. Attorney and Deputy Independent Counsel (John Poindexter investigation)

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