



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS
202-224-8953, 224-8947

DOLE OFFICIALLY REQUESTS THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL APPOINT PROSECUTOR

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) this afternoon formally asked Attorney General Griffin Bell to appoint a special prosecutor to examine allegations concerning the National Bank of Georgia and the Carter family warehouse.

Dole, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued a public call for a special prosecutor yesterday following revelations in the Washington Post of possible violations of the banking laws involving the bank and the warehouse in 1976 and 1977.

Today Dole sent the attorney general a letter requesting that he appoint a special prosecutor, saying that the appointment "is essential to avoid even the appearance of impropriety and to remove this investigation from the political arena and place it rightly in a judicial forum."

Dole also told his colleagues in the Senate, "I believe the nation would be best served if a special prosecutor were named. I call upon Democrats and Republicans alike to join me in this request. We must not allow this to become a partisan issue, and the one way to ensure that it does not is by having the attorney general act quickly to name a responsible individual to look into this matter. Many of us recall the trauma of Watergate and would do all in our power to avoid a repetition of that sad chapter in our history. Thus I believe we must move quickly to ensure that this matter is being handled fairly and that the integrity of the Administration is beyond reproach."

Following is the text of the Dole letter to Attorney General Bell:

Dear Sir:

In recent months, substantial questions have been raised about the propriety of certain business transactions between the Carter family warehouse and the National Bank of Georgia. For example, a recent article in the Washington Post reports that a former bonded warehouseman has stated that Carter warehouse records were repeatedly altered and that the same collateral was pledged to secure two different loans. If these acts occurred, they might constitute violations of federal banking laws. These are only the most recent in an escalating series of accusations. Other reports have raised questions concerning the tax implications of these transactions.

Because of the possible involvement of members of the President's family and a former high-ranking federal official, I urge that you immediately appoint an independent special prosecutor to thoroughly investigate all of these matters. Such a special prosecutor is essential to avoid even the appearance of impropriety and to remove this investigation from the political arena and place it rightly in a judicial forum.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate