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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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BCCI

DEMOCRAT SILENCE ON BCCI DEAFENING; "WHERE ARE THEIR OUTRAGED VOICES CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL?"

JOHNNY CARSON ONCE JOKED THAT THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE MEASUREMENT OF TIME WAS THE TIME THAT ELAPSES BETWEEN A STOPLIGHT TURNING GREEN AND A NEW YORK TAXI DRIVER HONKING HIS HORN.

THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE PAST DECADE, HOWEVER, I HAVE BELIEVED THAT THERE IS A REACTION EVEN QUICKER THAN THAT...AND THAT'S THE TIME BETWEEN AN ACCUSATION OF WRONGDOING BY A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, AND A DEMAND FOR A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR BY A CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRAT.

NO MATTER HOW FLIMSY THE CHARGE...NO MATTER IF THE ACCUSATION IS BASED ON NOTHING MORE THAN RUMOR-MONGERING...MANY OF MY DEMOCRAT FRIENDS REGARD THEIR DEMAND FOR APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AS ALMOST A RIGHT GRANTED BY BOTH THE CONSTITUTION AND NATURAL LAW.

WHAT MAY BE A RIGHT FOR SOME IS THE SPANISH INQUISITION FOR OTHERS.

THE SHORTCOMINGS OF SPECIAL PROSECUTORS

SPECIAL PROSECUTORS HAVE CARTE BLANCHE TO DELVE IN TO NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF THE LIFE OF THE PERSON FACING INVESTIGATION. AS WE HAVE SEEN WITH MR. WALSH'S INVESTIGATIONS, THE PROCEEDINGS CAN DRAG ON FOR YEARS.

AT ANY TIME, SOMEONE CAN COME FORWARD WITH A NEW ALLEGATION THAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SEARCH. EVERY NEW CHARGE OR RUMOR IS PARADED IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA. AND THE BILL TO THE TAXPAYERS KEEPS GOING UP AND UP.

AND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE FOUND NOT GUILTY...OR IF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DROPS CHARGES? NOT MUCH. YOUR REPUTATION IS RUINED, YOUR EMOTIONS AND BANK ACCOUNT DRAINED. AND AS FORMER SECRETARY OF LABOR RAYMOND DONOVAN SAID, "WHERE DO I GO TO GET BACK MY GOOD NAME?"

I RAISE THIS ISSUE FOR TWO REASONS. ONE IS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS BODY SHOULD EXPECT A VERY SERIOUS DEBATE OVER REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL STATUTE, WHICH EXPIRES NEXT YEAR.

POLITICS & THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COUNSELS

AND THE SECOND REASON IS TO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT PURE HARDBALL POLITICS AND NOT ANY DESIRE FOR JUSTICE IS USUALLY THE MOTIVATING FACTOR BEHIND THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL.

IF PROOF OF THIS POINT WERE NEEDED, ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS LISTEN TO THE SILENCE COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE OVER THE BCCI SCANDAL.

HERE IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE JUICIEST OF ALL SCANDALS--ONE INVOLVING BRIBERY, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND FINANCIAL FRAUD SPANNING SEVERAL CONTINENTS.

YET, THOSE WHO HAVE SO QUICKLY JUMPED ON THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL BANDWAGON BEFORE, ARE NOW NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. THE MEDIA, USUALLY LEADING THE DRUMBEAT FOR AN APPOINTMENT, IS ALSO STRANGELY SILENT.

SOMEONE A LITTLE MORE SKEPTICAL THAN I MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NAMES IMPLICATED IN THE SCANDAL ARE DEMOCRATS. CHIEF AMONG THESE IS DAVID PAUL, FINANCIAL ANGEL TO THE DEMOCRAT SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, AND PERPETRATOR OF THE CENTRUST SAVINGS AND LOANS FIASCO--A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR RIP-OFF OF THE TAXPAYERS.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CAN DO THE JOB

I AM NOT REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF CONTINUING THEIR SUCCESSFUL INVESTIGATION INTO BCCI-- WITH NO MOTIVATION OTHER THAN THAT OF SIMPLY GETTING TO THE TRUTH AND PUNISHING THE GUILTY.

AND SO, I ASK AGAIN: WHERE ARE MY DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES? WHERE ARE THEIR OUTRAGED VOICES CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL? HAVE THEY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE STATUTE? OR ARE THEY JUST AFRAID WHERE THE CHIPS WILL FALL? THEIR SILENCE IS DEAFENING.

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