

Stench Of Rigged Watergate Hit Carter

The same people who orchestrated the first Watergate crisis, the Washington Post and the New York Times, have stepped up charges that the Carter Administration is guilty of obstruction of justice in the firing of U.S. Attorney David Marston and have directly linked President Carter to several new scandals. One Washington insider commented on the climate being created: "The stink of Watergate pervades the atmosphere in Washing-

ADMINISTRATION

ton...Government institutions are being paralyzed with fear of scandal."

Vice President Walter Mondale is personally implicated in this attempt to destroy the executive as a functional branch of government. High-level intelligence sources report that Mondale is the "key mover" behind the Marston affair, in particular. By targeting the President personally, the hope is that the influence currently exerted on the Administration by certain Sunbelt forces can be eliminated in time to prevent Carter from joining with Western Europe in building a new gold-based monetary system.

New Scandals

Not content with the Marston affair alone, the *Washington Post* on Jan. 26 exposed two other scandals involving President Carter. In a front-page article, the *Post* revealed that two close personal friends of the President, Nathan Landow and Smith Bagley, were involved in a proposal to build a gambling casino with a Mafia-linked figure. In another article the paper charged that Carter fired a second U.S. Attorney, Philip Van Dam, who was investigating possible fund-raising violations during Carter's 1976 presidential campaign.

Carter Burned on Marston Firing

Last week's firing of U.S. Attorney David Marston by Attorney General Griffin Bell has been dubbed by the *Washington Post* the "Marston Massacre." The *Post's* contention is that Marston was relieved of his duties with the consent of President Carter, the Attorney General, and Deputy Attorney General-designate Benjamin Civiletti at a time when Republican Marston had succeeded in bringing traditional Democrats and Republicans in the Philadelphia area up for indictment. The charge continues that Marston will be replaced by a Democrat.

The attack on Civiletti is particularly noteworthy in that he is heading up the Koreagate investigation and has so far tempered efforts to turn that affair into an all-out attack on Congress.

William Safire, the man who brought "Lancegate" to the *New York Times*, fired the opening shot Jan. 23 in a series of news articles and editorials about Griffin Bell's "scandalous" firing of Marston. Safire declared, "Nineteen hours after Jimmy Carter invoked an uplifting new

spirit in his State of the Union Address, his Attorney General dutifully carried out a presidential order to fire a Republican prosecutor at the urgent request of a Democratic Congressman (Eilberg—ed.), who we all know is under criminal investigation....The central issue is an attempted — and incredibly, a successful — obstruction of justice, involving at least two government officials, possibly some mobsters, and featuring the duping of the President." On Jan. 26, Safire accused the President of lying about his ignorance of Marston's investigation when he demanded Marston's ouster. Safire called on the Republicans of the Senate Judiciary Committee to hire a special counsel to question Civiletti on his part in the case when he comes up for confirmation.

The *Washington Post* has made the Marston case front page news several days running, and White House Press Secretary Jody Powell has been besieged, at his daily press briefing, with questions from a press corps determined to escalate the Marston affair into a major scandal. The charges leveled by the press have forced the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility to take sworn statements from Bell, Carter, and Civiletti on the matter. The *Post* wrote Jan. 24: "We want to know what they know and when they knew it," said one Justice Department lawyer in words reminiscent of the key question underlying the Watergate scandal." On the same day, Marston held a press conference demanding a grand jury investigation into the matter. "When the President plays poker with Congress, I don't think the U.S. Attorney's office should be one of the bargaining chips," he declared. The Justice Department investigative team has since declared there had been no wrong doing.

Republicans Get in a Few Licks

Republicans have jumped on the Marston affair as an issue to be used against the Democratic Administration, in the hopes of gaining votes from it. Republican National Committee Chairman Bill Brock called for a special congressional investigation on Jan. 19 into the matter as did Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn). Republican Pennsylvania Senators Schweiker and Heinz are known to be urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to begin an investigation and have already won the support of Senator John Glenn (D-Ohio), who said he was concerned about the "appearance of the obstruction of justice."

Threats and a Kissinger Whitewash

The so-called Koreagate scandal took on new vigor last week when Representative Allen Ertel (D-Pa.) submitted a resolution that demands Korean businessman and lobbyist Tong Sun Park be forced to testify before the House Ethics Committee on the basis of allegations "that members of Congress have taken favors from Koreans," according to the Jan. 24 *New York Times*.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill and special counsel for the Ethics Committee Leon Jaworski are feeding the tense

environment around this particular scandal with sharp criticism of the deal struck by the Justice Department — especially Deputy Attorney General-designate Civiletti — which would return Park to the U.S. as a prosecution witness with immunity and with no obligation to testify before Congress. The Justice Department proposal would seriously curtail the potential of using the scandal to destroy individual Congressmen. As a result, Watergate prosecutor Jaworski has charged cover-up on the part of highly placed government officials.

Twice in a 24-hour period, O'Neill threatened a cutoff in arms and economic aid to South Korea if he doesn't get the demanded testimony from Park. The Ertel Resolution would make a cutoff of U.S. aid official policy if the

Korean government refuses to cooperate. O'Neill claims to have the support of Republican House Minority leader John Rhodes.

A new wrinkle in the drawn-out scandal emerged in the Jan 24 *New York Times*. According to the *Times* whitewash, former President Ford knew of Korean influence-peddling in 1975 when then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger submitted intelligence reports alleging that some Congressmen had accepted Korean payments. These reports and the file were turned over to then-Attorney General Ed Levy, who ordered his Criminal Division Chief Richard Thornburgh to launch an immediate and full investigation — an investigation that the *Times* implies was stifled when Carter assumed the presidency.

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