

WILL FOLEY PAYOFF HIS DEBT

Benjamin R. Civiletti is the Assistant Attorney General who recently flew to Korea to question TongSun Park - the Korean businessman accused of handing a lot of money to Congressmen to gain favorable legislation.

After a few days in Korea, Civiletti flew home and cultured news reports that TongSun Park was naming names. He said he doubted if any sitting Congressmen would be indicted as a result of Park's testimony.

Few people in Washington State's 5th District will recall that it was the same Benjamin R. Civiletti who phoned Spokane reporters after the story broke last fall that Congressman Tom Foley had been named in a long indictment against Park. That indictment alleged Foley had received \$500.00 and had made a phone call on Park's behalf.

The purpose of Civiletti's call last fall (he initiated the call) was to exonerate Foley.

Now we learn that a second rate Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania who had been under investigation for corruption made a phone call to President Carter asking the President to get rid of the Republican U. S. Attorney from Pennsylvania, David W. Marston, who had already convicted two top Democratic leaders in Pennsylvania.

President Carter called U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell and Marston has now been fired.

A couple of days before the purge of Marston, Bell was reported by the Washington Star as, "Bell is sending Assistant Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti, one of his top aides, to Philadelphia on Monday to assure the office (employees in Philadelphia) of Bell's commitment to vigorous investigation and prosecution of corrupt politicians."

Mr. Civiletti really gets around.

And it appears he doesn't mind talking if it helps Democrats. The question should be asked if it was proper for Civiletti, or any public official trying a case before a grand jury, to call the press on behalf of a Congressman in his home district. That's what Civiletti did in Foley's behalf.

At its confirmation hearing the Senate ought to find out from Mr. Civiletti if he got a phone call from Mr. Foley last year requesting he call the Spokane press and defend Foley, one of the most powerful men in the House. Or if the phone call went from Foley to President Carter to Attorney General Bell to Civiletti.

Civilletti ought to be turned down. He seems a bit politically involved to be in charge of corruption hustling. Will Foley repay the favor and use his position as the fourth most powerful Congressman and bend the arms of his fellow Democrat Senators to support Civilletti's confirmation.

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CARTOON SUGGESTION:

Foley talking to Democrat Controlled U.S. Senate Hearing.

CAPTION: The Justice Dept. saved my neck (I hope), confirmation is the least you can do for him.