

The legacy of Civiletti still hangs over Justice

by Warren J. Hamerman, Chairman, National Democratic Policy Committee

One year ago, during the transition between the Carter and Reagan administrations, *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. warned that unless the incoming administration cleaned the entrenched apparatus held over from Benjamin Civiletti, Ramsey Clark, Edward Levi, and Robert Kennedy out of the Department of Justice (DOJ), it would be besieged by terrorism, "Watergate"-style political destabilization, police-state persecution, and even assassination. In the course of 1981, the toll of failing to heed LaRouche's policy counsel has been paid in blood.

Even though Benjamin Civiletti's attorney-generalship was of brief duration—from the summer of 1979 through January 1981—the words "assassination" and "Abscam" evoke the fact that the history of 1981 has been, to an ominous extent, the history of Civiletti's legacy. It was under Civiletti, first as Director of the Criminal Division of the DOJ and then as Attorney General, that the Department of Justice itself openly became the protector of Libyan and Iranian assassins, the Weathermen and other terrorist groups, and big-time narcotics traffickers. It was under Civiletti, as well, that the DOJ nourished political frameup artists and convicted felons to unconstitutionally target for destruction the U.S. Congress and other institutions of government, including the executive branch itself.

Civiletti took the reins of a police-state apparatus carefully insinuated into the Justice Department for 20 years beginning with the Kennedy (DOJ) "old-boys" network around Walter Sheridan, the "inside" man in

the assassination of President John Kennedy in 1963, and continuing through Lyndon Johnson's Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the promoter of Ayatollah Khomeini, and Gerald Ford's Attorney General Edward Levi, the champion of the civil rights of terrorists. Not only did Civiletti's tenure in office represent a period of sustained assault by the DOJ on constitutional government and democratic institutions, but its legacy continues to threaten political life with descent into an Orwellian 1984.

Indeed, although Civiletti himself left office with Jimmy Carter, the DOJ under William French Smith has maintained many holdovers from the Civiletti apparatus such as John Keeney, the No. 2 man in the Criminal Justice Division; Michael Shaheen, head of the Office of Public Responsibility; U.S. Special Prosecutor Thomas Puccio; and Michael DeFeo, head of the Organized Crime Strike Force west of the Mississippi.

Terrorism

During April of 1980 *EIR* published the assessment that its "investigation concerning the series of pardons granted to terrorists and their supporters has revealed that Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti is personally responsible for these acts. If any of the following individuals are involved, directly or indirectly, in any form of terrorist or political violence, then the guilt must be laid squarely on the shoulders of Attorney General Civiletti, just as if he had pulled the trigger or planted the bomb."

The list included Kathy Boudin and seven other members of the Weatherunderground. On Oct. 20, 1981 Kathy Boudin, others from the Weathermen and various terrorist allies were arrested for a bank robbery shootout in suburban Rockland County, New York in which two police officers and a private security guard were brutally murdered. Two years earlier, on Oct. 21, 1979, DOJ spokesmen for Attorney General Civiletti announced the dropping of federal warrants against the self-same Kathy Boudin and seven other Weatherunderground fugitives dating from the 1969 "Days of Rage" riots in Chicago and the 1970 townhouse bombing in New York.

From the period when Civiletti became the Director of the Criminal Division of the DOJ in 1977, through his tenure as Attorney General, he participated in the pardoning or dropping of warrants against 18 known terrorists including: Kathy Boudin and seven other members of the Weatherunderground; three Puerto Rican terrorists imprisoned for an armed attack on the U.S. House of Representatives in 1950; the man imprisoned for an assassination attempt against President Truman; three members of the Republic of New Africa imprisoned in 1971 on charges ranging from possession of stolen weapons to murder; two members of the New Years Gang who bombed the University of Wisconsin Army Math Research Building in which one student died; and Eldridge Cleaver, the leader of the Weatherunderground faction of the Black Panther Party.

After the Weatherunderground bank robbery and murders in Nyack, New York last October, Civiletti told a reporter that he did not have "any particular recollection of events" in freeing Boudin or other terrorists. In the case of the release of the four Puerto Rican terrorists, Congressman Garcia (D-N.Y.) officially stated the role of the then-Director of the Criminal Division, Civiletti:

I worked closely with Civiletti. . . . Civiletti visited my office twice on the question of their release. Bell was Attorney General at the time. He was okay, but Civiletti was the brains behind it. He took a personal interest in the case."

The release of the Puerto Rican Four stimulated an enhanced level of terrorist activity by the FALN and other Puerto Rican terrorist groups, resulting in a series of attacks on U.S. military personnel.

Civiletti was also directly involved in undermining U.S. international intelligence capabilities, freeing the hands of the controllers of international terrorism. He personally approved the decision to block the prosecution of former CIA agent Philip Agee at a time when Agee was roaming Western Europe and the Caribbean colluding with terrorist organizations and publicly exposing Central Intelligence Agency station personnel

abroad, in addition to blatantly turning over classified information to the KGB and Cuban and British intelligence services.

Libyan and Iranian assassins

On July 22, 1980 Ali Akbar Tabatabai, the head of the anti-Khomeini Iran Freedom Foundation, was assassinated in Washington, D.C. by a network headed by Iranian Bahram Nahidian, the Carter administration "contact" to Khomeini. The next day top Carter administration officials met in Civiletti's office and decided to prevent law-enforcement officials from pursuing the assassins for reasons of "national security." Local law enforcement officials, in fact, had been prevented by Civiletti and others from impeding the activities of Nahidian and the Muslim fundamentalist assassins for several months *before* the actual murder.

The national security issue at stake in Civiletti's activities was the coverup of Billy Carter's relationship to Qaddafi and the Libyans. High level intelligence and law-enforcement officials have recently confirmed that several of the Libyan hit men who have been stalking President Reagan were let into the country on "student visas" by Attorney General Civiletti. According to sources, at least two of the assassins now loose in America were in attendance at receptions given by the Libyan ambassador in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, D.C.; the co-host of those receptions was Billy Carter. And Benjamin Civiletti, as *EIR* previously documented, guided the coverup of the Carter administration's shadowy and corrupt connections to the netherworld of Libyan terrorists and Qaddafi, and their patrons (see article, page 30).

The Williams case, Abscam and Brilab

During 1981 international indignation has grown against the way the Civiletti DOJ unconstitutionally framed the innocent Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.). Under Benjamin Civiletti, the DOJ and FBI were openly transformed into a "political police," conducting frameup and extortion campaigns against perceived political opponents of the administration. According to the Annual Report of the Attorney General, the four-year tenure of President Carter saw over 20,000 Americans jailed as the result of over 85,000 "white collar crime" investigations launched by the FBI and DOJ. While Senator Williams and numerous congressmen were victims of Abscam, labor officials were indicted under the DOJ's Brilab operation.

To conduct these frameups, Civiletti employed thousands of convicted felons protected by the Federal Witness Protection Program to "sting" the targeted individuals.

On Oct. 1, 1981 Senator Williams announced his filing of a \$6 million civil law suit against Civiletti;

current FBI director William Webster; Philip Heyman, deputy attorney general under Civiletti; Irvin Nathan, former deputy assistant attorney general; Mel Weinberg, the convicted felon used by Civiletti to manufacture the aroma of crime in the Williams case; three FBI agents; and Thomas Puccio, the Abscam prosecutor who violated Senator Williams's constitutional rights with abandon.

Although Williams had refused every bribe, he was convicted at the rigged trial conducted by Federal Judge George Pratt. During the trial the judge and prosecution withheld internal DOJ memoranda which proved Williams's innocence. Secret grand-jury documents subsequently revealed demonstrate that the Civiletti DOJ arranged for Judge Pratt to preside over the case because he was in "Justice Department control."

On Nov. 17, 1981 Senator Williams requested of his Senate peers the right to conduct an extraordinary full trial before the Senate itself, with the intent of cross-examining Civiletti, among others. In late November, Senator Williams took the unprecedented action of going to federal court in Washington to demand a full trial before the Senate.

Two days later, Katharine Graham's *Washington Post* ran a front-page box and long feature article attacking Senator Williams and Mr. LaRouche, who mobilized a national campaign to block Williams's expulsion, for forcing to the surface the Nazi corruption in the Carter Justice Department. LaRouche and his associates in the 9,000-member National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC)—one of the largest political action committee memberships in American politics—could blow the lid off more than Abscam. Williams himself has publicly charged that among Jimmy Carter's and Benjamin Civiletti's primary motivations for "getting" Williams was that in 1976, and again in 1980, the Senator was in the midst of national efforts to prevent Carter from winning the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

The Nov. 25 *Post* article states: "Senator Williams, who said the NDPC represents his most active grassroots support, described LaRouche and his supporters as 'very thoughtful people' and said their research into the constitutional questions raised by the Abscam case have been 'very accurate.' . . . In literature discussing what he describes as the 'frameup' of Williams, LaRouche . . . describes Abscam as a 'treasonous' action designed to break the will of Congress, then goes on to doubt the 'moral capacity' of Congress to stand up to it. 'There are members of Congress on both sides of the aisle so degenerate or so swayed by political opportunism that they variously promote or condone policies more hideous than those perpetrated by Albert Speer and others under Adolf Hitler,' he writes. . ." On Dec. 1, the Senate officially announced that expulsion proceedings against Senator Williams would be indefinitely

postponed after Williams had established that unconstitutional, illegal and unethical conduct by Civiletti's Justice Department as well as direct perjury pervaded the investigation and prosecution, and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) stepped forward as Williams's counsel before the Senate.

'Reagagate'

The case of Senator Williams transcends all traditional partisan considerations. In February 1981 *EIR* warned that the new President would be the target of political "Reagagate" scandals and assassination threats from the same people who engineered the frame-up of Harrison Williams. Throughout 1981, the news division of NBC, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and the Justice Department network once wielded by Civiletti did indeed launch a continuous "Watergate" targeting of Reagan through the Donovan and other scandals. The team of Abscam prosecutor Thomas Puccio and Kennedy "old-boy" Walter Sheridan, the same team that coordinated the political frame-ups of Williams and the other Abscam and Brilab targets, were the point men in the operation.

Among other things, Sheridan was the "inside man" who covered up New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the Permindex Corporation, which specializes in assassinations against heads of state (see article, page 30). Walter Sheridan, who is known to associate with other Canadian Jesuits around the Kennedy camp, was indicted by Garrison for attempting to bribe witnesses. When Sheridan was exposed (at the time he was working for NBC), most of Garrison's witnesses were murdered. Thomas Puccio and Jack Newfield of the *Village Voice* were later implicated in such dirty work through their friend Esther Newburg, the girl who knows too much about the real story of Chappaquidick for Walter Sheridan's health.

At the time Sheridan was footloose in the DOJ in the early 1960s, Civiletti was working for then Baltimore U.S. Attorney (later Senator) Joseph Tydings. The Baltimore U.S. Attorney's office was a special model operations center used by the "dirty side" of the Kennedy machine. During the period that Sheridan coordinated the coverup of the Kennedy assassination, Civiletti operated out of the Maryland law firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard (the correspondent firm to Carter crony Kirbo in Atlanta). When Civiletti came to the DOJ in 1977, his first assignment was running the infamous Koreagate scandal coverup.

EIR has documented that the Permindex networks, the terrorist apparatus domestically and the Iranian and Libyan networks are extensively involved in the multi-billion dollar annual drug traffic; Civiletti himself, shortly after being named Deputy Attorney General in June 1979, voiced his endorsement for "decriminalization" of the mind-damaging drug marijuana.