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## Profile: Maryland

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# Civiletti and the Mandel frameup

by Lawrence Freeman

Former Maryland governor Marvin Mandel, convicted on circumstantial evidence of mail fraud and racketeering in 1977, had his prison sentence commuted by President Ronald Reagan Dec. 4 and was released after having served 18 months in federal prison. The order for Mandel's release came three days after the U.S. Senate agreed to postpone the expulsion hearing of Abscam frame-up victim Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.).

While supporters of Mandel hold former President Jimmy Carter responsible for targeting Mandel, due to Carter's deep bitterness at having lost the Maryland 1976 Democratic primary to Gov. Jerry Brown, the interests of the country as well as Maryland will be immediately better served by examining the career of former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti. A national targeting of Civiletti will serve a threefold purpose. It has been confirmed by reliable counterintelligence sources that a second attempt to assassinate President Reagan is still live. This assassination attempt is being coordinated in part by the same networks that could have been exposed publicly in a full investigation of the infamous "Billygate" Charter Oil scandal in 1980, if Civiletti had not personally forced a complete cover-up. Charter Oil interfaces with both the Dope, Inc. domestic circles of Max Fisher and Carl Lindner, and the KGB/Libyan/Armand Hammer networks. A full Senate investigation of Civiletti's cover-up role and Charter Oil itself is in the immediate interests of our national security.

With his position as head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department and later as the Attorney General, Civiletti was a key participant in the frame-up of Senator Williams. In the case of Mandel, Civiletti held similar authority.

Marvin Mandel was not targeted for his policies per se, but for the fact that he knew how to work with various groupings in the political structure to get a job done. A state delegate since 1952 and Maryland Speaker of the House since 1964, Governor Mandel knew intimately the workings of Maryland politics and the importance of building and maintaining a bipartisan political machine.

It was this constituency machine, encompassing industry, labor, citizens from rural western Maryland, and the farmers from the Eastern Shore, that was seen as too great an obstacle by his opponents. Their policies could not be implemented as long as that machine survived and could wield political muscle in the state.

### Tydings: 'people are born to starve'

Civiletti was hatched out of a dirty nest of attorneys under the leadership of former U.S. Senator from Maryland Joe Tydings. It was Robert Kennedy who appointed his close associate Tydings as U.S. Attorney for Maryland in 1961.

One of Tydings's first acts was to hire Stephen Sachs and Benjamin Civiletti as his assistants. This dangerous trio deployed underlings such as Barnet Skolnick, whose trial tactics were called "Nazi-like" by Mandel's wife Jeanne. Skolnick campaigned over the next two decades to destroy the Democratic-labor alliance in the state. In addition to their dirty work in Maryland, this evil group paved the way for and assisted in the illegal Abscam-Brilab witchhunt against the necessary, if inadequate, machines in the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Tydings was the key organizer of the Watergate-Abscam operations, as an important but subsumed feature of a larger policy. As outlined in his grotesquely titled book, *Born to Starve*, Tydings believed that man is the cause of misery and poverty in the world, and his only solution is the Malthusian program for population reduction. He was the first activist in Congress to introduce legislation for this program and continues today to organize for the creation of global institutions that will act outside of and above the governments of individual nations to enforce global genocidal policies. Today, Joe Tydings is a member of the Board and Honorary Chairman of the Draper Fund/Population Crisis Committee, a leading organization behind the infamous *Global 2000 Report* released by the Carter Administration. Tydings helped found the "International Conference on Parliamentarians on Population" at a conference in Sri Lanka in 1979.

### White-collar crime

Civiletti, trained by Tydings in the DOJ under the new orientation of "cleaning up white-collar crime," admitted that it was Kennedy's investigations of union corruption that attracted him to the job. He soon launched his own crusade against so-called political corruption, resulting in the jailing of A. Gordon Boone, Speaker of the House in Maryland, for his alleged connection with a savings and loan scandal. Stephen Sachs, who aided Civiletti in the prosecution, remarked on the case, "We're talking about an episode in Maryland public life that was seminal for a whole series of wrong doings and white collar crimes."

Civiletti left the DOJ in 1964, and joined the political powerhouse law firm of Venable, Bajeter and Howard. At Venable, he eventually became a partner, heading up their litigation department before he left in 1976 to work for the federal government at the recommendation of Charles Kirbo, Carter's close adviser. In 1977 Civiletti joined the Carter administration as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division. Fellow Venable lawyer Bob Embry became Assistant Secretary at HUD and Venable's Paul Sarbanes won his first term as U.S. Senator. Civiletti campaigned statewide for Carter's election, was the treasurer and political strategist for Sarbanes, and gave major support to the reelection of Baltimore's Democratic Rep. Parren Mitchell, who has done so much to promote low-wage labor policies and protect high interest rates. It is well known to anyone who reviews the records that Tydings, Civiletti, and Sachs were all instrumental in Mitchell's first congressional victory over incumbent Sam Friedel in 1970. Friedel's victory by 42 votes was overturned after two recounts, to give Mitchell victory by a 37-vote margin.

### **"Stephen Sachs: public enemy no. 1"**

Stephen Sachs, presently Attorney General for the State of Maryland, also received his early training under Tydings. Immediately after leaving the DOJ in 1964 with the rest of the trio, he entered private practice at the firm of his mentor, Tydings, Rosenberg and Gallagher, after he campaigned for Tydings's first and only election to the U.S. Senate. Sachs's early training period in the DOJ initiated the career that makes him "public enemy number one" in Maryland.

Sachs became U.S. Attorney for Maryland in 1967 and three years later launched his crusade against "white-collar crime" that ended with the imprisonment of Marvin Mandel ten years later.

Sachs was educated at the American Friends Service Committee-connected Haverford College, and received further training at Oxford University before he returned to practice law in Maryland. As U.S. attorney, he established himself as "the man to clean up Maryland," when he first attacked Baltimore's pornography district as a "mafia and syndicate" operation and claimed the only way crime continues is with the support of public officials. Sachs soon effectively coordinated perhaps the first "anti-corruption" strike-force operation in Maryland, meeting with the IRS and FBI weekly.

Next he moved to the labor movement, and did a hatchet job on the powerful Baltimore buildings trades unions. In an interview with the *Baltimore Sun*, he discussed his real target: "Of course, there are old standbys, gambling, narcotics, etc. But when I came here, I told federal agencies I was extraordinarily interested in corruption of public officials. Rape and murder

are most serious crimes *but no more venal crimes exist than the rape of public trust*" [emphasis added].

True to his word, Sach's office in 1969 was reported to be investigating three Maryland Congressmen, including Representative Friedel, who was defeated one year later by Parren Mitchell. Attorney General John Mitchell finally put a halt to Sachs's activities, including illegal wiretaps, and in 1970 he was forced out, with a briefcase of 17 unsigned indictments.

As a private attorney with help from Venable, Baetjer and Howard and the *Sun* newspapers, Sachs initiated the next round of Watergating against Maryland's political structure. When the dust settled and the list of casualties was completed in 1977, after 13 years of warfare, 17 elected officials had been removed from office, including two county executives, a governor, and a Vice-President of the United States.

The tragedy began to unfold in 1971 when Republican George Beall, the new U.S. Attorney for Maryland, conducted extensive investigations, essentially fishing expeditions, looking for illegal land deals, kickbacks, and anything else they could find. Beall desired to emulate his two predecessors, Tydings and Sachs, and according to the *New York Times*, "expressed a determination to carry on his predecessors' vigorous investigation of political figures."

By early 1973, Baltimore County Executive Dale Anderson was indicted on charges of bribery and extortion. The surprise in this case occurred when William Fornoff, administrative officer for Baltimore County since 1957 and named in 31 of the 39 counts of indictment with Anderson for taking payments from engineering and consultant firms, was allowed to plead guilty to one minor tax charge and was named co-conspirator, *but not* as a co-defendant in the Anderson indictments. This deal was worked out by his lawyer, none other than Stephen Sachs, in return for cooperation in the probe of other "bigger" public officials.

Fornoff and another one of Sachs's clients at the same time, Joel Kline, not only finished off Anderson, but also opened new investigations into then Vice President Spiro Agnew, who himself was a former Baltimore County Executive during Fornoff's time. Sachs, working with the federal prosecutors and former trainee Barnet Skolnik, who was rehired by Beall, developed the precursor to the Federal Witness Protection Program. Fornoff was given immunity to provide indictable evidence against Agnew, which opened the floodgate to many others who wanted to testify to save themselves, including Lester Matz, president of an engineering-consulting firm, who was represented by Venable, Bajeter and Howard, and Jerome Wolff, president of Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc.

This orchestrated "immunity" tactic involved the use of convicted criminals like stock manipulator Joel

Kline to enable the government to get the information needed one way or another. Kline, for example, flew in from Florida to provide the prosecutors with more information, yet the Florida state government did nothing to investigate swindles aimed at reviving his bankrupt financial empire. Agnew was forced to resign in late 1973, and the credit was given to Skolnik. Not mentioned is the essential role performed by Skolnik's old ally Stephen Sachs.

### **Get Mandel**

Mandel was indicted and eventually convicted on completely circumstantial evidence, on charges that the former governor was a secret partner in various land deals and the Marlboro Race Track, and was doing favors for alleged partners. No hard evidence was ever presented at the trial and none has come to light since.

In 1974, shortly after Agnew resigned, while Mandel was running for re-election, the omnipresent investigations hit Mandel's long-time friends at the Tidewater Insurance Company. He was publicly identified with the grand jury probe by a *Baltimore Sun* article that accused him of easing passage of race track legislation to help his friends. The source of this accusation is Stephen Sachs, acting as lawyer and confidant for his client, Nathan Cohen. Both Kline and Grenier Inc. from the Agnew investigation, provided leads in the Mandel probe, but the real culprit was Nathan Cohen. Cohen, part owner of Pimlico Race Track, was a close business associate of Lester Matz, the same Matz who provided information for the prosecution that led to indictments of former Anne Arundel County Executive Alton, former Baltimore County Executive Anderson, and former Vice President Agnew. Cohen, with Sachs as his lawyer, was the major witness against Mandel in his trial. The *Sun* papers relentlessly continued their written assault against Mandel before his indictment. Mandel lashed back, and calling the stories "The latest in a long series of examples of the McCarthyite inquisition that is being conducted by the U.S. Attorney's office in Baltimore." Mandel added, "This is nothing short of a planned attempt by the U.S. Attorney to manipulate the press against me through smears, innuendos, and leaks to destroy me politically. . . ." Mandel was eventually convicted after a mistrial, and Tydings's and Sachs's protégé Barnet Skolnik was once again acclaimed for his job as the chief prosecutor and labeled "the giant killer."

### **Civiletti: Mandel's enemy**

After Mandel was convicted on Aug. 23, 1977, he began an appeal process that stretched into 1979. In May 1978 Civiletti was promoted to the number-two spot in the DOJ, Deputy Attorney General, and in this position had a major influence in the government's case

against Marvin Mandel. In point of fact, it was the Civiletti-led Justice Department that forced a new hearing before the full bench of the Richmond Court of Appeals after Mandel had won an earlier 2-1 decision there on Jan. 11, 1979, reversing his lower court conviction. On July 20, 1979, after hearing Mandel's appeal for the second time the appellate court reversed its own earlier ruling with a 3 to 3 vote, and thus reinstated the original lower court conviction. *If the Justice Department had not forced a second hearing before the higher court, Marvin Mandel would never had gone to prison and would have served out his second term as governor.*

A third hearing was requested by his lawyers, but it was denied on Sept. 17, 1979, after successful counter-arguments by the U.S. Attorney's office. By this time, Benjamin Civiletti was directing all policy in the Justice Department, having been sworn as Attorney General on Aug. 16, 1979. In July 1980, Mandel appeared before the U.S. Parole Commission, a department of the DOJ, and on Oct. 2, they ruled he must serve a full two years until May 1982. Again seeking early parole, Mandel petitioned the full Parole Commission in November, and on Dec. 12, 1980, with Civiletti the lame duck head of the DOJ, parole was denied.

### **Terrorists freed**

While the Justice Department was orchestrating the frame-up of Senator Williams and the imprisonment of Mandel, convicted terrorists and assassins were being set free. On Oct. 12, 1981, Kathy Boudin, a fugitive for eleven years and leader of the terrorist Weatherunderground, was arrested after fleeing from the scene of a bloody robbery that left two police officers dead. In May 1979 the Justice Department dropped all outstanding federal warrants against Boudin and five others, including Bernardine Dohrn, a fellow fugitive who once headed the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list. Civiletti was responsible for the dropping of charges or pardoning of a total of 16 criminals, who were accused or convicted of crimes stemming from political terrorism while he was a top official. In addition to the names listed above, the individuals are: Lolita Lebron, Irvin Torres, Rafael Cancel, and Miranud and Oscar Collazo, who were freed from their prison sentences resulting from an armed attack on the U.S. House of Representatives in 1950; Imari Obadele, Addis Adabba, and Karim Njabafundi, all members of a revolutionary group, the Republic of New Africa, and imprisoned in 1971 on charges ranging from possession of stolen weapons to murder; Carleston Armstrong and David Fine, wanted in connection with bombing of the University of Wisconsin Army Research Building in which one person was killed; and Eldridge Cleaver, a former leader of the Black Panther Party. Civiletti had definitely set his priorities.