

# The roots of Abscam/Brilab

Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, just-retired FBI Assistant Director Neil Welch, and other leading *dramatis personae* in Abscam were trained in blackmail, trial-by-press, entrapment and other Gestapo tactics now standard operating procedure at the Justice Department during the “Kennedy Justice” years.

It was under Attorney General Robert Kennedy that the first unit of what were to become known as the Organized Crime Strike Forces (OCSF) was formed. Headed by Kennedy family protégé Walter Sheridan, a veteran of the FBI and former chief of the Counterintelligence Section of the top-secret National Security Agency, the original Strike Force had a single priority: get Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa by any means necessary. Toward this end, Sheridan could draw on the files of the 1956 McClellan Committee hearings on the Teamsters for which Bobby Kennedy (trained as an aide of Sen. Joe McCarthy) served as chief counsel.

According to Victor Navasky, author of *Kennedy Justice*, the Strike Force was “in touch with grand juries throughout the country. It had an undercover air of mystery about it. Its *modus operandi* was cloak and dagger.”

It was also grossly illegal. One of Bobby Kennedy’s first acts as Attorney General was to order massive illegal wiretaps drawing on the expertise of NSA-trained Strike Force head Sheridan who established fronts like International Investigators, Inc. for this purpose.

Only after 30 indictments had been filed against Hoffa and Bobby Kennedy arrived at a near perfect “frame-up” was the Strike Force deployed on other cases. In 1964, for example, Kennedy sent Neil Welch, who would later run Operation Abscam as Assistant FBI Director, into the South with his “Get Hoffa Squad” and with John Doar, his chief civil rights “troubleshooter,” on a mission to turn “Mississippi Summer” into a racial conflagration. U.S. intelligence sources report that this team set in motion a triple assassination against: three civil rights leaders Chaney, Goodwin and Schwerner; Sam Bowers, head of the Mississippi KKK; and, Martin

Luther King. Aborted at the last moment by President Johnson, the operation became the model for race riots throughout the 1960s.

The OCSFs in operation in 13 cities today have carried on this tradition. One recently retired veteran of the Detroit Strike Force told *EIR* last month: “When there were no fights in the Teamster leadership, we’d hire a professional hitman to go out and blow a couple of Teamsters away to get it started.”

Another tradition set by Bobby Kennedy, whose father made his initial fortune bootlegging whiskey, was to protect the “Mr. Bigs” of organized crime in America. In fact, many graduates of Kennedy’s “Get Hoffa Squad” went on to become top staff members of Dope, Inc., the international network of offshore banks and front companies whose annual income from drug trafficking has been conservatively estimated at \$100 billion.

Among them was Robert Peloquin who was named head of the first official OCSF setup in Buffalo on orders from Attorney General Ramsey Clark in 1966. Together with Neil Welch, then FBI Special Agent-in-Charge for Buffalo, Peloquin slapped Stefano Maggadino with a death bed indictment. Amidst great publicity, Welch and Peloquin announced that the indictment of “Don Maggadino,” who died before his trial, marked the end of organized crime in Buffalo.

In their investigation, Welch and Peloquin carefully sidestepped the Jacobs’ families Emprise/Sportsystems empire, which law enforcement personnel have since identified as a nexus for Dope, Inc.’s narcotics trafficking and dirty money laundering. Later, Henry Peterson, head of the DoJ’s Organized Crime and Labor Racketeering Section, and five other Kennedy Justice “Old Boys” took top-level executive posts with Emprise/Sportsystems, whose founder ran whiskey with Joe Kennedy, Sr.

Robert Peloquin and his former boss, William Hurdley, who had been Kennedy’s Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, went on to found International Intelligence, Inc. which today provides security for casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Intertel is believed to form the core of the Kennedy family’s private intelligence establishment, working closely with Walter Sheridan, who is today chief investigator for Sen. Ted Kennedy’s Judiciary Committee.

Today, this Kennedy “Old Boys” network is believed to be the real power directing the Strike Forces. They work through such holdovers from the Kennedy days as Neil Welch, who was ironically selected to oversee the pilot phases of the DoJ’s new war on “white collar crime” despite the fact that his record as a “dirty trickster” was so bad he could never be named FBI director. Under this new cover, the same old policy of protecting the big guys was continued.



## Who is Benjamin Civiletti?

U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, chief architect of the Justice Department's assault on the labor-industry alliance with Abscam, Brilab, Pendorf, has built his career watergating others. Civiletti's initial exposure to the Gestapo tactics essential to these "sting" operations, was gained first hand as one of the "bright young men" brought into the Justice Department by Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Fresh out of the University of Maryland Law School, Civiletti was named Assistant in 1962 to then U.S. Attorney Joseph Tydings. "He was hard-working. Not from a prominent family, but hard-working," the son of a former Maryland Senator told *EIR* recently. Tydings had himself been awarded his appointment for managing John F. Kennedy's 1960 Maryland campaign.

Tydings and his staff featured prominently in Bobby Kennedy's "war on organized crime," and the Baltimore U.S. Attorney's office became a model for others to follow. Kennedy frequently visited to map out new tactics with Tydings. "We got away with things no one else in the country could do," Tydings told *EIR*: "Of course, that was in 1962. Today, our methods have become standard operating procedure."

Introduced into the old-guard Episcopalian and Zionist families who run Baltimore, Civiletti was invited to join the elite law firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard. He remained with this firm until named Assistant Attorney General at the DoJ's Criminal Division in 1977.

Many of Civiletti's Baltimore associates played prominent roles in Watergate, the first phase of the Trilateral Commission's current "sting" operations against the labor-industry alliance. The infamous "plumbers unit" which carried out the actual Watergate break-in foisted itself on the White House in the same way the "sheik" did Abscam victims. Informants "leaked" the coverup to reporters at the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* who were complicit in the "scam."

Stephen Sachs, one of Civiletti's close friends on Tydings' staff, handled the "Dump Agnew First" phase of Watergate as then U.S. Attorney for Baltimore. Sachs also "mopped up" Agnew's local political machine by prosecuting Md. Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.), formerly a Congressman who drew the first bill of impeachment against Nixon for the House Judiciary Committee, had been a patron of Civiletti's at Venable, Baetjer and Howard and later recruited him to be treasurer of his 1966 congressional campaign. Robert Shelton, another former Civiletti law partner, joined Sarbanes as associate counsel to the Judiciary Committee, whose members were instrumental in redirecting the DoJ into its "war on white collar crime" after Watergate.

Appointed Assistant to Attorney General Griffin Bell in repayment for running Carter's 1976 Maryland campaign, Civiletti used his Watergate experience to handle a series of follow-up scandals with which the Trilateral Commission sought to further consolidate power. Among these were: Koreagate which heavily targeted the machine of Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards; and, Lancegate which threatened to sink the Carter administration when Jimmy Carter leaned too heavily on his "Georgia Mafia" friends.

Civiletti has earned a reputation as a "killer prosecutor" in his dealings with congressmen, labor leaders, and others in Abscam and Brilab. Yet, he has set an all-time record by freeing 20 terrorists since taking office.

Among these are four Puerto Rican terrorists who are the symbolic heroes of the FALN. Three were jailed for an armed attack on Congress and the fourth for attempting to assassinate Pres. Harry S. Truman! "Civiletti was the brains behind the release," Rep. García (D-N.Y.) told *EIR*. "They never would have been released without his efforts." No sooner freed, than the four unrepentent terrorists called for "the liberation of Puerto Rico from Yankee Imperialism by any means necessary."