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Reagan Bush Committee

901 South Highland Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204 (703) 685-3400

Wallop

September 5, 1980

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Meese
FROM: Anthony R. Dolan
REGARDING: Civiletti Statement

Larry Silberman has dictated this statement and believes you should call the following for their signature:

- 1) Governor Thompson
- 2) Governor Thornburgh
- 3) Bill Ruchleshaus
- 4) Carla Hills

He is willing to sign it and will probably be able to get Nino Scalino (former head of Office of Legal Counsel) to do so. He thinks you're the key.

1 We believe that Benjamin Civiletti should resign or be asked to resign by President Carter. There can be no excuse, no satisfactory explanation, no justification for his untruthful response to the press concerning the existence of a conversation between himself and the President regarding the investigation of the President's brother.

The fact the Attorney General asked the White House counsel to leave the room so he could speak with the President privately makes it inconceivable that the Attorney General could possibly have forgotten that discussion.

Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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September 5, 1980

Page 2

Moreover, the recent testimony of Mr. Lisker and supporting documentation indicates the Civiletti, the Attorney General, wished to talk to the President before the Justice Department took action against the President's brother.

We do not believe the Attorney General should have spoken with the President at all about this matter but his effort to conceal the truth makes the entire episode much worse.

We say take this position with great sadness but with the conviction that the credibility of the Justice Department is more important than any individual."

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Page 2

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