

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
Introduction of Attorney General  
Benjamin R. Civiletti  
North Carolina State Bar  
Royal Villa  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
October 17, 1980

BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI

This evening we are fortunate to have as our speaker the Attorney General of the United States. I think that most of us are aware of Mr. Civiletti's background.

Of his undergraduate days at the Johns Hopkins University where he was not only an outstanding student but an excellent athlete as well.

That he took his law degree from the University of Maryland.

That he was an Assistant United States Attorney.

That he was in private practice with the firm of Venable, Baetjer (pronounced Bater), and Howard in Baltimore.

And that he is the 73rd Attorney General of the United States.

Actually, the transition was not so abrupt, for Mr. Civiletti went to the Justice Department in March of 1977 as an Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division and progressed to the post of Deputy Attorney General before arriving at his present post.

Instead of dwelling upon his career, I would like to point out some of the significance of this man's work. I think that Mr. Civiletti's interest in Civil Rights, the environment, and the protection of the privacy of citizens is well known to you. But, I have been doing some second story investigating of my own and have found some leaks in his office. (Senator, I talked to Victor Kramer, who used to work on Senate Ethics and is now Civiletti's Deputy).

From my sources, I have concluded that the Attorney General is a lawyer's lawyer. For example, his staff meetings are businesslike. As one person noted, these meetings are more like preparations for trial than discussions about the day's work.

This obsession for no nonsense is impressive, and I think that we all respect leaders who show such discipline. And discipline is the word that came across from my sources.

Under Mr. Civiletti, the Justice Department has instituted guidelines that ensure that procedure is consistent. Justice should be evenhanded, and these guidelines are a significant step in this direction.

There is now a document, Principles of Federal Prosecution, that details what can and can not be done in criminal prosecutions.

Another report establishes national priorities on White Collar crime. This report defines white collar crime and indicates those crimes that should be prosecuted.

The Justice Department also issued Open Trial Guidelines that insist that in all but the most secret or sensitive matters, trials should be open.

From these observations, it is obvious that Mr. Civiletti is a man who believes that justice is not a random or chance thing. Instead of hit or miss prosecutions or procedure, the Attorney General is setting up guidelines to insure that legal matters proceed in an orderly manner.

I do not want the significance of these structural changes to be lost upon you. The Attorney General is a scholar

of the law. His work at many levels both private and public have taught him the necessity of having consistent rules. By writing guidelines, the Attorney General is upholding the traditional values of the law, for we believe in orderly procedure and in written rules.

Mr. Civiletti has taken concepts that we use in our private practices and superimposed them upon a vast bureaucracy. I think that we who have worked in large or small firms can realize the significance of his accomplishment.

Despite the fact that he works in a rather large firm, he nevertheless believes in quality rather than quantity. And I think that you will enjoy hearing from him about his ideas.