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LYNN COLEMAN
Carter's choices were approved after much controversy

BENJAMIN CIVILETTI

Senate Confirms Civiletti, Coleman

Washington

The Senate yesterday overrode controversy to confirm oil industry lobbyist Lynn Coleman as general counsel of the Energy Department and former federal prosecutor Benjamin Civiletti as deputy attorney general.

Coleman was approved by voice vote seven months after his nomination by President Carter. The approval came after a motion to kill the nomination was defeated 75 to 20.

Civiletti, who has been acting deputy attorney general, was confirmed 72 to 22 in the No. 2 post in the Justice Department, five months after his nomination.

Civiletti, 42, formerly was an assistant U.S. attorney in Maryland and was named in March, 1977, as head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. During his tenure, controversies arose over Bert Lance's financial dealings and the dismissal of Pennsylvania U.S. Attorney David Marston.

He was nominated early this year to become deputy to Attorney General Griffin Bell replacing Peter Flaherty, who resigned to run for governor of Pennsylvania.

No one questioned Civiletti's personal integrity or ability as a lawyer. But his handling of matters

under purview of the Criminal Division — notably the Marston affair and investigations of Lance and former CIA Director Richard Helms — drew fire from Senator Malcolm Wallop (Rep-Wyo.) and other Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Wallop said he questioned Civiletti's "sensitivity and devotion to the ethics of his profession" and charged he helped turn the agency into "the department of political justice."

James Eastland (Dem-Miss.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said that Civiletti is "eminently qualified to serve," that Wallop's charges against him were groundless and that the nominee testified "truthfully and factually."

Opponents of Coleman, 38, pointed to his background as a partner in the huge Houston law firm of Vinson and Elkins, which represents major oil and gas companies. They said the public will not believe his Energy Department decisions will be fair.

They also cited Coleman's work as a lobbyist in helping draft legislation favorable to natural gas companies and his contribution to his law firm's political action fund after the Senate Energy Committee approved his nomination.

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