

7/22/72 Today's Wash Post has a short story saying that Kleindienst appointed a civil division lawyer, Irwin Goldblom, to "defend" Colson. DJ spokesman, unnamed, quoted as saying there is "no conflict in interest in the assignment, and said that the civil division lawyer had been instructed not to have any contact with any of the department's criminal division lawyers working on the case." Concludes similarly: "The Justice Department said last night that Goldblom was 'almost on detached service' and would not have any contact with the criminal division attorneys who are gathering evidence against" the bunch.

Any believers? Interesting the Post used the word "defend" and not, say, "represent". I suggest this means the White House is, inevitable, going to be involved, and that Justice already knows enough to know the problem that will come up. It is, I think, quite exceptional for the taxpayer to pay for the "defense" or "representation" of a public employee who is not charged with a crime and if he is, will be with a crime that cannot have been part of his official or public function. All the legal aspects of this case get more exceptional.

Story not by one of regulars on case. Woodward had been assigned a county (albeit major) story yesterday, alleged misconduct in political life by Bremer prosecutor. By Wm. Claiborne.

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