

Civiletti Is Named To Succeed Flaherty In No. 2 Justice Post

Assistant Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti, who has handled some of the Justice Department's most sensitive matters, has been named deputy attorney general — the No. 2 post in the department.

The White House said yesterday that President Carter was nominating Civiletti to replace Peter F. Flaherty, the former mayor of Pittsburgh who has resigned, effective Friday, to explore campaigning for governor of Pennsylvania.

Civiletti's appointment, which must be confirmed by the Senate, came as no surprise. As



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head of the criminal division since joining the department in February, Civiletti's stock with Attorney General Griffin B. Bell has risen because of his handling of difficult criminal cases.

"Bell feels he has done an outstanding job in supervising the Korean investigation, the (Richard) Helms case (the plea-bargain involving the former Central Intelligence Agency director) and the FBI break-ins," said one close Civiletti associate.

There was no immediate indication from the Justice Department or the White House on who would replace Civiletti as criminal division chief. But two department sources speculated that one candidate might be G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel to the House Assassinations Committee.

Civiletti, 42, headed the litigation department of a Baltimore law firm before joining the Justice Department. He was first recommended to Bell by Charles H. Kirbo, a close adviser to President Carter. Kirbo, a lawyer, met Civiletti while in Baltimore on a legal matter.