

February 11, 2008 -- Giuliani's and Mukasey's business partnership

Although Attorney General Michael Mukasey made it clear that he would recuse himself from matters concerning his close friend Rudolph Giuliani, Mukasey's failure to appoint a special counsel to look into the Republican Party's political prosecution, and, in fact, persecution of former Alabama Democratic Governor Don Siegelman by Republican Alabama Governor Bob Riley and federal judge Mark Fuller could not only financially benefit Giuliani but also Mukasey's son Marc, a partner with Giuliani's law firm Bracewell Giuliani.

Mukasey has refused to appoint a special counsel to investigate the activities of Governor Riley and US Judge Mark Fuller in the political prosecution of Siegelman. According to informed sources, Giuliani Partners, the consulting firm of Giuliani, stands to reap a huge financial windfall from one of Riley's pet projects, the Patriot Highway, a \$1 billion toll road around Huntsville, Alabama. Riley has stated that the project will be financed by "private investment partners."

Giuliani is no stranger to the toll road privatization business. Giuliani Partners brokered a deal between Texas Transportation Commission and Cintra, a Spanish firm owned by Grupo Ferrovial, to construct portions of the Trans-Texas Corridor, dubbed the "NAFTA Superhighway," that will connect Mexico to Canada via Texas. Public highways and new highways will make up the Texas superhighway, including Interstate 35 and State Highway 121.

In 2007, Giuliani sold off his Giuliani Capital Advisors to Macquarie, an Australian firm that has received contracts to operate privatized toll roads in the United States. Macquarie and Cintra partnered in contracts to operate the Chicago Skyway and the Indiana Toll Road, which connects to the Chicago Skyway. While Ohio Secretary of State of Ohio, Kenneth Blackwell voiced strong support to sell off the Ohio Turnpike. Had the Macquarie/Cintra consortium received that privatization contract, it would have controlled a major highway from the Pennsylvania state line to Chicago. Pennsylvania Democratic Governor Ed Rendell has also spoken to Macquarie about privatizing the Pennsylvania Turnpike, which connects to the Ohio Turnpike. There are similar proposals in New Jersey to sell the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, and the Atlantic City Expressway to private investors. Giuliani Partners and Bracewell Giuliani are major players in these privatization efforts.

On February 7, 2008, Mukasey appeared before the House Judiciary Committee and, in answer to a question from Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL), said he had not looked into the Siegelman matter. Mukasey tried to worm himself out of the question by stating the Siegelman case is under appeal. It is apparent why Mukasey has not and will not investigate the Siegelman case. Anything that could result in a major investigation of Riley and his colleagues could sink the Patriot Highway deal, and that would cost his friend Giuliani and his son Marc dearly.

There is also the question about why Mukasey's two predecessors failed to investigate the political prosecution of Siegelman. Alberto Gonzales and John Ashcroft both failed to intervene with US Attorneys in Alabama who were carrying out the political vendetta. However, it is Ashcroft's role that suggests that something much more sinister was taking place within the highest echelons of the Justice Department.

One of Riley's closest friends and advisers is Bill Johnson, who Riley appointed in 2006 to head up the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). Johnson worked for Riley's tainted but successful gubernatorial campaign in 2002 against Siegelman, an election rife with electoral fraud. Johnson and Riley go back to 1995 when Johnson joined Riley's congressional campaign. Johnson became Riley's congressional chief of staff in 1996.

However, it was Johnson's unusual political career move the year before that is of interest. In 1994, Johnson moved from Alabama to Missouri to run for the Senate against John Ashcroft. Johnson was Libertarian Party candidate and advocated the legalization of prostitution, drugs, and the abolishing of the Internal Revenue Service. In fact, Johnson proclaimed he failed to pay federal income taxes for a number of years because he refused to finance a "corrupt government."

Johnson in the 1980s, was a volunteer "medic" for the Afghan mujaheddin and Nicaraguan contras as part of the right-wing support network that was cobbled together by CIA director William Casey and White House operative Oliver North. WMR previously reported how Judge Fuller participated in covert contra operations in Enterprise, Alabama and how he eventually assumed control of the covert support assets. Today, Fuller is involved as a principal of a number of CIA front operations and military contractors, including Doss Aviation and Oceaneering International.

WMR has learned that Johnson was and is close to GOP political operative Karl Rove. In fact, Johnson reportedly gained

quite a lot of opposition research on Ashcroft in the 1994 Senate race. Ashcroft had previously served as Missouri's governor from 1985 to 1993 and there was quite a bit of dirt dug up about Ashcroft -- dirt that eventually made it back to Alabama upon Johnson's return and into the hands of Rove, Riley, and Fuller.

When the political prosecution of Siegelman was being devised while Ashcroft was Attorney General, he was allegedly blackmailed into not taking any action that would derail the prosecution of Siegelman. The dirt on Ashcroft in Missouri was enough for him to remain silent as the political hit on Siegelman was being crafted in Montgomery, Alabama and Washington.

WMR's sources in Alabama report that the jailing of Siegelman was a warning to others not to take on the criminal syndicate that surrounds Riley and his close pals, including Rove, who now serves as a Fox News contributor and *Newsweek* columnist, and Riley's newest business friends, including Giuliani and Mukasey.

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