

PRESIDENT AVOIDS THE CROCODILE

By reversing himself and refusing to release graphic photos of abused prisoners of war, Barack Obama has stunned liberals.

"They feel betrayed and abandoned by a president they put into office. On war and torture, at least, they thought Barack was one of them. He is not. Barack is not into ideology. As he showed in 2008, when he threw his white grandnephew under the bus and spared the Rev. Wright.

When they fight under the bus when his toxicity level rose too high, Barack has all the sentimental of Michael Cortese when it comes to the family business.

And what Obama is saying with his refusal to release the photos is what he has been signing for weeks now: a liberal war -- on the left and the right too great.

Thus, when Gen. Penneix, Osherno and McJernan grumbled, Obama tossed a bit of cover over the photos. Barack Obama is not taking on CENTCOM or West Point for a bunch of congressional progressives.

Thus, after he had opened the door to the "warfare memoirs," and resistance for me and up, Obama backed down.

He said he did not want a special prosecutor. He did not want a 9-11 commission to delve into the criminality of what was



COMMENTARY
BY PAAT BUCHANAN

Nicrosi nomination on hold

Bob Cambacorta
COMMENTARY

When U.S. Senator Arlen Specter announced late last month that he was switching from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party, there was immediate speculation that the Pennsylvania senator's party switch would benefit Alabama's Republican senators both of Alabama's Republican senators would be advanced by the decision of "Specter the Defector." It was reported, Sen. Richard Shelby would move closer to becoming the senior Republican on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, which controls billions of dollars in federal spending every year. Shelby becomes the number two ranking member of the minority with the prospect of becoming the senior Republican member of the committee after the 2010 election cycle.

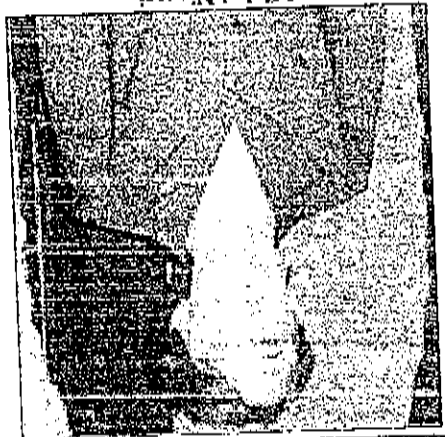
Sen. Jeff Sessions, meanwhile, becomes the ranking minority member on the Senate Judiciary Committee and, as has been widely reported, will play a pivotal role in the continuation process for the Obama administration's judicial appointments including an impending nomination for an associate justice on the Supreme Court to succeed retiring Justice David Souter. When there is opposition to an Obama appointee, it will likely be led by Sessions.

Sessions' voice suddenly becomes more authoritative as the administration seeks to fill its first Supreme Court vacancy, plus all future District Court.

For some time now, it's been reported that the Obama Justice Department would name Joyce Vance of Birmingham and Michel Nicrosi, a Montgomery native now living in Mobile, to be the U.S. Attorneys for the Northern District and the Middle District of Alabama respectively. The appointments were expected to be made three weeks ago, but May 1 came and went without either appointment being made.

Then, last Friday, the White House announced the appointment of Vance to succeed Alice Martin as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District. Vance is a prosecutor in the Birmingham office. Martin has said she will stay on the job until Vance is confirmed by the Senate. But the appointment of a candidate for the Middle District may have been sidetracked by Sessions and Republican Gov. Bob Riley, whose considerable influence with both Canary and Martin has been widely reported. If you either believe what has been reported or just love a good conspiracy theory, Riley's influence with the two U.S. Attorneys has resulted in the convictions of former Gov. Don Siegelman, businessman Richard Scrushy and Johnny Goff and the current investigation of Attorney General Troy King.

Scottiebout around the federal courthouse has it that Nicrosi had been selected for the Montgomery appointment. She's said to be highly qualified and had been thoroughly vetted. She'd even been



Michel Nicrosi

told the job was hers.

Her family was excited that she would be moving back home to Montgomery. Her husband, Ben Evans III, is an attorney with a firm which has offices in Montgomery and Mobile. No problem there. Her fourth-grade son would likely transfer to Holy Cross Episcopal School. The Nicrosi family donated the land on which the school is located.

Soon after Sessions became ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and began meeting with President Obama about future judicial appointments, he reportedly received a call from Gov. L. Leura Canary as U.S. Attorney for the Middle District may have been sidetracked by Sessions and Republican Gov. Bob Riley, whose considerable influence with both Canary and Martin has been widely reported. If you either believe what has been reported or just love a good conspiracy theory, Riley's influence with the two U.S. Attorneys has resulted in the convictions of former Gov. Don Siegelman, businessman Richard Scrushy and Johnny Goff and the current investigation of Attorney General Troy King.

To date, no nomination has been made. In case you're wondering why Gov. Bob Riley would care who becomes the next U.S. Attorney in Montgomery, well, just ask former Gov. Don Siegelman.

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