

Specter: Gonzales 'damaging' White House

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A top Senate Republican Sunday said U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' testimony at the Senate Judiciary Committee was "damaging" to the administration.

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., was asked whether Gonzales aides should be "celebrating" because Specter did not join Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., in urging Gonzales to resign during Gonzales' appearance before the committee last week.

"I don't think they should be celebrating that, because the attorney general's testimony was very, very damaging to his own credibility," Specter said. "It has been damaging to the administration, because without answers as to what really happened, there is a lot of speculation. And the charges are being made that the Department of Justice was the political arm of the White House."

Gonzales is at the center of a controversy over the firing of eight U.S. attorneys. Critics of the Bush administration have suggested that the prosecutors were fired for partisan political reasons, but Gonzales has insisted repeatedly that nothing improper occurred in the dismissals.

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