



Bridge scandal fading into the rearview mirror: Opinion

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Bridget Anne Kelly, with attorney Michael Critchley, remains at the center of the George Washington Bridge scandal. But as she and former Christie confidant Bill Stepien fight the legislative committee subpoenas, interest in the scandal may dwindle. *(Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger)*

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By Carl Golden

The attorneys for the only two individuals ousted because of their alleged direct involvement in the Bridgegate scandal have begun

to the committee's subpoenas, for instance, by claiming it is an improper inquiry, while giving immunity could be used as a shield against any proceeding brought by the U.S.

former Christie deputy chief of staff Bridget Anne Kelly — **she of "time for some Fort Lee" fame** — and ex-political confidant and Christie campaign manager Bill

It isn't simply the committee to whom they've refused to talk; they likewise declined to be interviewed by the lawyers hired by the Christie administration to conduct an internal review to determine if others were involved in the closure scheme or the subsequent effort to disguise it as a traffic study.

While the report has not yet been officially issued, leaked accounts of its findings absolve the governor of any role. **Critics quickly pounced**, claiming the report was a million-dollar, self-serving exercise, devoid of credibility, and that it reflected the predetermined conclusions of the administration, which had commissioned it and paid for it.

Kelly, Stepien and David Wildstein, a former high-ranking Port Authority of New York and New Jersey official, are the central figures in the lane-closure controversy and each has suggested their tongues could be loosened upon receiving prosecutorial immunity — grants that have not been forthcoming from the legislative committee or the U.S. attorney.

Information gleaned from emails, memos and telephone records already made public reveal the three were in fairly frequent communication during the four da

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