

Dean Names Silbert as 'Deep Throat'

NATCHITOCHES, La., May 1 (AP) — Former White House counsel John W. Dean III says he thinks "Deep Throat" was Earl J. Silbert, one of the original Watergate prosecutors.

"He was in possession of the records," Dean said Wednesday in a speech at Northwestern State University. "I can't think of anyone at the White House who would have known what Silbert knew."

"Deep Throat" was the code name given to their major source by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, whose coverage of the Watergate story won a Pulitzer Prize for The Post. Neither has identified the major source.

"Silbert will be very unhappy with me for calling him 'Deep Throat,'" Dean said. He added that he wasn't absolutely sure.

"If I am wrong, I expect many denials," he said. "If I am right, I expect some bobbing and weaving in Washington."

(Silbert, who has been nominated for U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, denied Dean's statement. "I placed strict limitations on my comments in keeping with the code of professional responsibility, as reporters here know," Silbert said.)

(Asked for his reaction, Woodward said, "As in the past, I won't confirm or deny such reports. This is because of the need to insure that a news source will receive anonymity when it is promised. I have not been released from my promise.")