

A Secret Diary on Watergate

Unknown to his superiors, the former chief prosecutor in the Watergate case, Earl J. Silbert, kept secret records of the investigation and made contacts about writing a book based on the records.

The Justice Department confirmed yesterday that Silbert, chief assistant U.S. attorney here, had apparently kept the records.

Neither special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox nor Justice Department officials have seen the records. Neither has the Senate Watergate committee, but some of its staff members have interviewed Silbert about the matter.

The fact that Silbert had kept such records was first reported by Lesley Stahl of CBS-TV, who quoted an unnamed source as saying the records would reflect the depth to which some persons had gone to mislead and deceive the original Watergate prosecutors.

Horace Webb, a Justice Department information official, said he cautioned Silbert that department regulations would bar him from publishing information gained in his official duties.

Webb quoted Silbert as saying he had found little interest in the book proposal and in view of the department regulations would not pursue the matter.

Los Angeles Times