

30 Sep 75

Silbert's nomination as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia is confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The vote is 10 to 2 in favor; the two voting against his confirmation are Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) and Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.). Silbert, who has been serving in the post under court appointment as acting U.S. attorney, was first nominated by Nixon in Oct 73 and his nomination was resubmitted twice by Ford.

Tunney, the chief opponent of Silbert's confirmation, makes a final effort to block it, telling committee members that Silbert was "intimidated, whether by ambition or by fear, from pursuing the duty entrusted to him" as prosecutor of the seven men involved in the Watergate break-in. He says Senate confirmation of Silbert will be interpreted as "a sign that prosecutors who do not vigorously investigate political officials can expect to be rewarded."

After the vote Tunney says he will oppose Silbert on the Senate floor but expects to lose.

WXP 1 Oct 75, Helen Dewar

SFC 1 Oct 75 [LATimes]