

3 Original Watergate Prosecutors Honored

By Timothy S. Robinson
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The three original Watergate prosecutors, who have been criticized on some fronts for their handling of the case, were commended yesterday by the Justice Department for their work in the original investigation.

The awards to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Earl J. Silbert, Seymour Glanzer and Donald E. Campbell came at a Justice Department pro-

gram in which Acting Attorney General Robert Bork defended the role of the department in handling the case and praised the office of the Watergate special prosecutor.

Without referring directly to the Watergate scandal, Bork said:

"We will see that the abuses of violent dissent have largely been controlled and that the abuses of government power are being uncovered and those who seem responsible are being brought to make their accounting before the law."

Bork, whose first official act after being named Acting Attorney General in October was to fire Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox, said, "The Department of Justice is contributing immeasurably to that process, both through the office of the special prosecutor and through the continued excellence and impartiality of the performance of its regular duties."

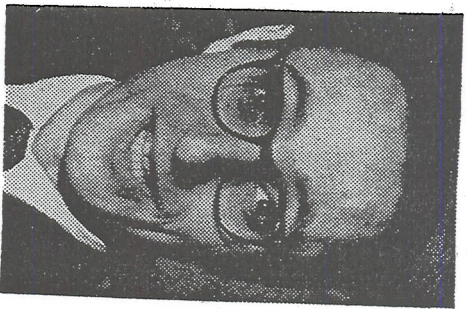
Silbert, Glanzer and Campbell were among 121 employees of the department who received awards yesterday and were not singled out during the ceremony.

However, their boss, U.S. Attorney Harold H. Titus Jr., issued a press release "expressing pride and satisfaction in the recognition accorded his three prosecutors."

The FBI showed symbolically yesterday that it is becoming a team player at the Justice Department after years of independence under its late director, J. Edgar Hoover.

The bureau's top officials showed up in force at the department's 24th annual award ceremony to watch Associate FBI Director Nicholas P. Callahan, the bureau's No. 2 man, receive the Attorney General's \$1,000 award for exceptional service.

According to long-time department employees, the FBI has never before nominated anyone for an award and has not taken part in the selection of winners. The new FBI director, Clarence M. Kelley, served this year on the selection committee, which made 120 other awards.



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and harrowing obstacles of a magnitude probably never confronted in the annals of the administration of criminal justice in this country.

"While it is inappropriate at this time because of the continuing nature of the Watergate investigation to detail the substance of the

work accomplished by these men . . . it is possible to state that (they) adhered to the highest standards of their profession," Titus added.

He said that as the "investigation continues and indictments are returned, the complete vindication and fruitfulness of their untiring efforts" will be seen.

The three prosecutors withdrew from the case June 29, saying they were bowing out reluctantly but felt it best to give Cox a free hand.

At the same time, they said they might be needed as witnesses concerning any allegations that they had not vigorously pursued the Watergate case.

The Senate select Watergate committee specifically has probed the prosecutors' handling of the case last fall. The prosecutors vigorously

defend their actions, pointing out the "massive obstruction" apparently under way at the time as one of the obstacles they faced.

They also have said they felt they should first win convictions in the original case, and then grant limited immunity for testimony concerning the involvement of others.

It also is known the prosecutors and Titus have been concerned that the Watergate special prosecutor's office and Senate select committee have taken credit for major breakthroughs in the case that the prosecutors first developed.

The prosecutors still are consulted occasionally by the special prosecutor's office concerning specific aspects of the case, according to sources in the U.S. attorney's office.