

Study Set on Silbert Nomination

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to hold hearings on the nomination of Earl J. Silbert as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia to discuss allegations about his handling of the early Watergate prosecution.

Sources close to the committee said that hearings on the nomination of a U.S. attorney are unusual. No date has been set, the sources said, but hearings may be held within two weeks.

Members of the Judiciary

Committee recently received a letter charging that Silbert deliberately or unwittingly acted as a link in the Watergate coverup while chief of the original prosecution team in the case from 1972 to early 1973.

The letter was said to have come from Robert S. Vance of Birmingham, Ala., chairman of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen.

In addition, sources said, committee members have received a letter protesting the nomination from James W.

McCord Jr., one of the seven convicted Watergate conspirators whom Silbert prosecuted.

By holding the hearings, one source said, the committee is seeking to offer Silbert an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

He was nominated earlier this year to replace Harold Titus, who resigned.

Silbert said last night that he had not been told of the scheduling of a formal hearing and declined comment on the allegations.