

NYTimes MAY 1 1974
**Ervin and Tunney Want Inquiry
Into Silbert's Watergate Work**

WASHINGTON, April 30 (AP)—Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, called today for an in-depth investigation by the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Justice Department's handling of the Watergate break-in case.

If this is not done, he said, he will not be able to vote to confirm President Nixon's nomination of Earl J. Silbert, the original Government prosecutor in the case, to be United States Attorney here.

Senator John V. Tunney, Democrat of California, said that he agreed that a thorough investigation should be made.

Their comments were made just before the committee heard testimony by the first opponents of Mr. Silbert's nomina-

tion. They were the only committee members present.

Robert S. Vance, president of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen, said that Mr. Silbert's actions as the chief prosecutor of the Watergate break-in case "could hardly have been of more assistance to the cover-up operation."

Mr. Ervin, who is chairman of the Senate's Watergate investigating committee, said that he knew of nothing derogatory about Mr. Silbert and had formed no judgment on whether he should be confirmed.

Mr. Silbert testified last week that he had tried his best to bring out the whole story but had encountered lies, half-truths, the withholding of information and other roadblocks.