

SFChronicle

## Kleindienst and Ervin Tangle

### Washington

Former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst said heatedly yesterday that he did not know of the involvement of higherups in the Watergate case at the time the original seven men were indicted two years ago.

Summoned as a witness when the Senate Judiciary Committee resumed hearings on confirming Earl J. Silbert as U.S. attorney here, Kleindienst repeatedly denied remembering the date he learned of the involvement in the scandal of White House aides and officials of the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

But Senator Sam Ervin Jr. (Dem.-N.C.), whose televised committee hearings last summer helped bring the scandal to national attention, grumbled that "if anything is better than a good memory, it's a good forgettery."

The two men's voices rose frequently during Ervin's 105-minute questioning of Kleindienst, who recently pleaded guilty to not telling the whole truth in other Judiciary Committee hearings.

U.S. District Judge George L. Hart, meanwhile, granted immunity to two former

White House "plumbers" expected to be the principal witnesses at next week's trial of alleged conspirators in the break-in of the office of Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Hart ruled that E. Howard Hunt and David R. Young are immune from further prosecution.

Silbert's nomination has been pending for several weeks. He was chief Watergate prosecutor for the first nine months after the June, 1972, break-in of the Democratic National Committee.

Kleindienst testified that because he was a political appointee at the time, he turned over the day-to-day handling and responsibility for the Watergate case to Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen.

Ervin asked Kleindienst when he had learned that money raised by the reelection committee had been found in the bank account of one of the burglars.

"I have no recollection of that specific kind of information," Kleindienst said. "I don't know when I learned of that kind of information."

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