

# Senate Panel Shelves Silbert Nomination

Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee has shelved President Nixon's nomination of Earl J. Silbert to be a U.S. attorney until after Congress resolves the question of Mr. Nixon's impeachment.

Silbert, the Justice Department attorney who directed the prosecution of the original seven Watergate defendants, has been criticized by some for not pushing that investigation far enough.

Questions by members of the Senate committee over Silbert's handling of the

original Watergate case have resulted in lengthy hearings. During a closed session Wednesday, sources said, Senator John Tunney (Dem-Calif.), offered a resolution which called for delaying any action on the nomination until the impeachment proceedings were over.

The resolution said documents bearing on Silbert's prosecution of the original Watergate case "have not been made available to this committee" by Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski because their disclosure might affect remaining

Watergate-related court actions.

"Full and fair consideration of Mr. Silbert's nomination cannot be accomplished while the impeachment process is under way and while all relevant documents are not available to the committee," it said.

Sources said the committee took no vote on Tunney's resolution because Senator Roman Hruska (Rep-Neb.) feared it would carry and appear to be a rejection of Silbert. But, they said, the committee did agree informally to the postponement Tunney had sought.

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