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Presidents
in book -
From Bob Griffin -
Bn

AMF
2 talked with
him. 11/13/74

Don

NOV 13 1974

In the case
of 1, 2 & 3, you
are buying trouble
on the Hill that
you don't need -
if the names are
sent up
as reported.

Don

Silbert Remains Ford's Choice For U.S. Post

By Fred Barnes

Star-News Staff Writer

President Ford will resubmit to Congress the nomination of Earl Silbert for U.S. attorney for the District, according to White House sources.

In addition, Ford intends to return for Senate confirmation five other controversial nominations that will lapse during the current congressional recess, the sources said.

Some of the nominations, like Silbert's, initially were made by former President Richard M. Nixon and then supported by Ford after he became president three months ago.

SILBERT WAS the head of the initial Watergate prosecution team, and he has been accused of ignoring the role of Nixon and other administration officials and campaign aides in the Watergate affair.

The investigation headed by Silbert led to indictments of the five men arrested at the Watergate break-in, along with G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr.

It was the special Watergate prosecution force, which succeeded Silbert's team, whose probe culminated in the indictment for former White House aides John Ehrlichman, H. R. Haldeman, former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell and others currently on trial in the Watergate cover-up case.

IN SEVERAL days of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee last summer, the Silbert nomination drew stiff opposition from Democrats, and the hearings finally were called off indefinitely, with the nomination unconfirmed.

While the nomination remains on Capitol Hill, Silbert has been serving as acting U.S. attorney for the city.

Silbert's is one of 44 pend-

ing nominations by the White House which will lapse as a result of the Senate recess.

All of them, White House sources said, will be resubmitted to the Senate once it returns to work later this month.

Among the other controversial appointments awaiting confirmation are:

- Outgoing Gov. Thomas Meskill of Connecticut for a judgeship on the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals. Nixon submitted the Meskill nomination on Aug. 8, the day before he resigned, but the American Bar Association has declared that Meskill is unfit for the job.

- Daniel T. Kingsley for a seat on the Federal Power Commission. The former head of the personnel office in Nixon's White House, he was linked to a plan to reward political supporters with jobs and contracts. Kingsley was initially appointed by Nixon.

- Bert A. Gallegos as the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. He was nominated by Nixon after popular Alvin Arnett was ousted from the OEO post.

- Melvin A. Conant as assistant administrator of the Federal Energy Administration. A former Exxon official, he was given a \$90,000 bonus when he left the oil company, and questions about this have held up his confirmation in the Senate Interior Committee.

- Leonard F. Walentynowicz as administrator of the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. He would replace Barbara Watson, a black woman who several senators want to keep in the post.

- Peter Flanigan as ambassador to Spain. It was reported last week that the White House had told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Flanigan nomination would be resubmitted.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11/14/74

TO: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: JERRY JONES

For your information.

United States Senate

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