

Schorr's Job Status Uncertain Despite Gain Over Ethics Panel

By LES BROWN

Although the House ethics committee dropped its case yesterday against Daniel Schorr, the CBS News correspondent's status with the network remained uncertain.

Until a week or so ago, all indications were that Mr. Schorr, who was suspended from his network duties last Feb. 23, would not be asked to return.

But high-ranking officials of the network were reported so impressed with Mr. Schorr's presentation before the committee last week, and with the public reaction to it, that his chances for reinstatement appeared markedly improved.

Mr. Schorr said last night that he had been contacted late yesterday afternoon by Sandy Socolow, vice president of CBS News in Washington, about his employment but that he was asked not to discuss what was said.

A spokesman for CBS News in New York said of Mr. Schorr: "He is not reinstated as of this moment. We will address ourselves to the problems between us promptly."

A Discreet Silence

Because CBS News has officially maintained a discreet silence about the real nature of its conflict with Mr. Schorr, the public has been under the impression that his suspension was connected wholly to the investigation by the House ethics committee, formally known as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

That impression is why Mr. Schorr might be asked to return to CBS News, where he has worked for 23 years.

But the case against Mr. Schorr at CBS had relatively little to do with the rightness or wrongness of his role in passing the secret House intelligence report to *The Village Voice*, a weekly newspaper in New York, for publication.

Within CBS News, Mr. Schorr has been accused of deceiving its executives and of causing them initially to suspect one of his fellow correspondents of giving the document to the weekly newspaper.

According to persons close to the situation, Mr. Schorr at first denied being the

source of the publication, and then allegedly raised the question of how the document might have come into the possession of Aaron Latham, a reporter for *The Voice*.

Mr. Latham had written the preface to the transcript of the secret report for the paper. Mr. Latham is also a friend of Lesley Stahl, a correspondent for CBS News in its Washington bureau.

Since Mr. Schorr had said he was not responsible for the publication, certain executives of CBS News then suspected that Miss Stahl had taken the document from Mr. Schorr's desk and made a photocopy of it for Mr. Latham.

Mr. Schorr had known about the rumor but, the CBS sources say, made no effort to intercede and correct the misapprehension of the executives.

Consulted Her Lawyer

Miss Stahl, who has confirmed that version of the story, said she was so upset at the time she had consulted her attorney on how to deal with the matter.

When questioned about the incident, Mr. Schorr called it a misunderstanding that would be clarified when he was able to discuss it with officials of the network.

CBS News executives have said that several members of the Washington bureau would be demoralized if Mr. Schorr were allowed to return to work.

But industry sources reported that, after Mr. Schorr's presentation before the House ethics committee, Arthur R. Taylor, president of CBS Inc., advised CBS News officials that it would be well to reinstate Mr. Schorr.