

Law Professor Named Counsel For Senate Watergate Inquiry

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 — The select Senate committee set up to investigate the Watergate bugging case named a Georgetown University law professor today as its chief counsel.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the committee's chairman, announced the selection of Samuel Dash, a professor of criminal law and one of the nation's leading authorities on wiretapping, after the seven-member committee's first organizational meeting.

Mr. Dash, a former Philadelphia District Attorney who directs the Georgetown's Law School's Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure, was said to be Mr. Ervin's personal choice for the job.

The professor said in a telephone interview that he considered the investigation "one of the most important assignments the Senate has ever taken on."

The vote today on Mr. Dash by the committee of four Democrats and three Republicans was little more than a matter of form, as were the designations of Senator Ervin as the committee chairman and Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee, as vice-chairman.

Mr. Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat, said that the committee had not yet attempted to define the scope of its investigation, preferring to consult first with Mr. Dash on what directions the inquiry should take.

Mr. Ervin said today that it would be "six weeks to two months before the committee

will be in a position to open hearings," and that it had not yet been decided who would be subpoenaed to testify.

Mr. Dash, a 47-year-old graduate of Harvard Law School, said he was taking an indefinite leave from his duties at Georgetown and was "prepared to put whatever time is necessary" into the investigation, which is expected to last for perhaps as long as a year.