

Dash Named Watergate Unit Counsel

By Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward
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Professor Samuel Dash of Georgetown University Law Center, a former Philadelphia district attorney and expert on electronic eavesdropping, yesterday was named counsel of the select Senate committee that will investigate the Watergate bugging and related allegations of political espionage and sabotage in the 1972 presidential campaign.

Dash, 47, was hand-picked

for the job by Sen. Sam Ervin (D-N.C.), who will serve as chairman of the special seven-member Senate committee that will conduct the investigation.

The selection of Dash was unanimously approved yesterday by the four Democrats and three Republicans on the committee during a closed-door meeting.

Capitol Hill sources described the session as harmonious and reported that Ervin was formally designated chairman and Sen. Howard Baker

Jr. (R-Tenn.) vice chairman of the committee by unanimous votes.

As counsel of the select committee, Dash will coordinate the far-ranging investigation authorized by the full Senate last month. The Republican minority on the committee still has not settled on a choice of minority counsel for the probe, sources reported yesterday.

After the three GOP committee members have made their choice, probably after consultation with the Senate

Republican leadership, the nomination is expected to be approved by the full committee with no Democratic opposition.

In turning to Dash to coordinate the Senate investigation, Ervin picked a former prosecutor who is one of the nation's leading exponents of criminal justice reform and a recognized expert on political espionage.

In 1957, Dash conducted a nationwide study of electronic eavesdropping, which led to

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his authorship of a book called "The Eavesdroppers" published by Rutgers University Press in 1959.

Dash, in testimony before a Senate subcommittee in 1959, said that he found illegal wiretapping by law enforcement agencies in every major city he studied. As a former prosecutor, he had favored the use of wiretapping in some cases if strictly controlled by the courts.

In July, 1971, he sharply criticized then Attorney General John N. Mitchell for authorizing "a lawless system of law enforcement" according to a United Press International report at the time.

pleaded guilty to all charges stemming from the incident.

According to federal investigators, the Watergate bugging stemmed from a widespread campaign of political espionage and sabotage that was conceived in the White House and directed by presidential aides at the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Reports of the wider underground campaign, first brought to public attention by the press, led to the Senate's decision to create a special committee to investigate the Watergate bugging and the allegations of related espionage and sabotage.

Both the White House and the President's re-election

committee consistently have denied any official involvement in the bugging of the Democrats' headquarters. Administration and Nixon campaign officials generally have refused to discuss the allegations of a much broader undercover campaign by the Nixon forces, as reported in the news media.