

Majority, Minority Counsels

Their Biggest Case

Washington

Samuel Dash comes across as the unflappable, professorial type, a matter-of-fact questioner with a slight New Jersey accent. His wife calls him "an incurable romantic."

And Fred P. Thompson, the slow-talking, pipe-smoking Tennessean who represents Republican members on the Senate Watergate committee, tells friends he wants to spend more time with his wife, Sarah, and their three children.

But since they were hired by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities that is investigating the Watergate scandal, Dash, chief counsel, and Thompson, minority counsel, have had few private moments.

TIRED

Both men are exhausted from the long hours and pressure-cooker atmosphere that surrounds them. Dash has been caught nodding in the hearing room during some of the more monotonous questioning.

Thompson, 30, said in an interview, "All of your endurance, intelligence, wit and knowledge are put into this. It tests you to the fullest. Think of the ramifications. We're dealing with the institution of the presidency daily. It's not just another case."

Dash has said, "Everything I've done personally has led up to this job."

And "everything" for the 48-year-old-law professor includes an impressive list of legal and scholarly credentials.

LEAVE

Dash is on leave from the Georgetown University Law Center where he is director of its Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure.

He has been a Justice Department trial lawyer, a district attorney in Philadel-

phia, a partner in several law firms, and a consultant or member of numerous

American Bar Association projects.

He is the author of a study on electronic surveillance, "The Eavesdroppers."

He tells a story of taping a speech for his law students about apple pie, motherhood and the fight against Communism. Dash said he took the tape to specialists who, in two hours, changed his words on the tape so it sounded like he was confessing to killing two FBI agents.

Born in Camden, N.J., Dash graduated from Tem-

ple University in 1947. He went on to Harvard Law School where he was a classmate of former Attorney General of former Attorney General Richard G. Klein-

By then, Dash had married a girl he had known since high school but who hadn't interested him romantically until they were re-introduced on the boardwalk of Atlantic City, N.J.

Today, Sara Dash usually can be spotted in the first row of the VIP section at the Watergate hearings. "It's about the only time I get to see Sam," she said.

"He writes poetry for almost every birthday and anniversary," she said. "He's an incurable romantic." His hobby is archeology, Mrs. Dash said, and "if he ever retires, he'll probably go on a dig."

DAUGHTERS

The Dashes live in Chevy Chase, Md. Their 21-year-old daughter, Judi, a Brown University student, is working this summer as a re-



AP Wirephoto
SAMUEL DASH AND FRED THOMPSON
They're exhausted by the hours and the pressure

search assistant for the Watergate committee. Their younger daughter, Rachel, 17, is spending the summer as a camp counselor in Maine.

Thompson, Dash's counterpart on the committee, can usually be seen in the hearing room leaning over the shoulder of the committee vice chairman, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. (Rep-Tenn.), whose re-election campaign Thompson helped manage.

Thompson graduated from Memphis State University in 1964 and received his law degree from Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville in 1967.

For the next two years, Thompson was a partner in a small law firm in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. He became an assistant U.S. attorney in Nashville in 1969, and gained a reputation as a successful prosecutor of bank robbers and moonshiners.

In 1972, he went back into private law practice and a few months later, Baker tapped him to come to Washington.

The Thompsons have two sons, aged 13 and 8, and a daughter, 10. Thompson brought his family to Washington for the month of August, but before that he was commuting every other weekend to Tennessee.

One day last month, Thompson received a call from police saying that they had arrested a woman who claimed to be his wife.

"I knew it couldn't be Sarah," Thompson said later. "I had just talked to her by phone in Nashville. But it shows that we get all kinds of nutty calls and letters."

But does he enjoy all the fuss?

"Sure I like it," Thompson replied, "but it never ceases to embarrass me."

Associated Press