

Another Approach To Agnew Inquiry

Washington

The chief counsel to the Senate Watergate committee disclosed yesterday that committee staff members are in touch with the Justice Department to determine whether kickback allegations involving Vice President Agnew fall within the scope of the committee's investigation.

The counsel, Samuel Dash, answering questions at a breakfast meeting with

newsmen, said the action was taken "fairly recently" because "questions had been put to us from so many sources," not on the basis of any particular information that he has.

"We are seeking to get as much information as we can to determine if it comes within our resolution," he said, referring to the Senate resolution that established the committee and defined its jurisdiction.

He said that while he has no information that would indicate that the kickback allegations fall within the committee's purview, he felt a "responsibility" to pursue the matter.

A spokesman for Archibald Cox, the Watergate special prosecutor, said the Agnew matter had been discussed by Cox and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and it was decided that it was not germane to the inquiry.

Agnew, who is meeting with the President at the White House today at his own request, is under federal investigation for possible involvement in an alleged kickback scheme involving Maryland politicians and contractors during the time he was chief executive of Baltimore county, later Governor of Maryland and, possibly, since he became Vice President.

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