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Agnew Case Under Study

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 31— Samuel Dash, the chief counsel to the Senate Watergate committee, disclosed today that committee staff members were in touch with the Justice Department to determine whether kickback allegations involving Vice President Agnew fell within the scope of the committee's investigation.

Mr. Dash, answering questions at a breakfast meeting with newsmen, said that the action was taken "fairly recently" and because "questions had been put to us from so many sources," and not on the basis of any particular information that he had.

"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 had no information that would indicate that the kickback allegations fell within the committee's purview, he felt a "responsibility" to pursue the matter.

The Watergate committee was established by a Senate resolution that defined its investigation as one that would consider "the extent, if any," of illegal, improper or unethical activities during the 1972 Presidential campaign "or any Presidential campaign, canvass, or other activity related to it." There have been no official indications of any allegations involv-

ing Mr. Agnew himself that would come under this heading.

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

Mr. Agnew, who is meeting with the President at the White House tomorrow 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, Governor of Maryland and, possibly, since he became Vice President.

Mr. Dash also said that the committee would decide, perhaps at a meeting on Sept. 10, whether or no to issue an interim report on the first phase of its watergate investigation.

Committee lawyers are at work on further legal arguments in anticipation of the White House reply to the committee's motion this week asking for a quick judgment in its efforts to gain access to President Nixon's Watergate-related taped recordings, he said.

The committee is expected to reopen its hearings about Sept. 17, shifting its focus from Watergate to the so-called "dirty tricks" of the 1972 Presidential campaign.