

Kin of Dash Works for Ervin Panel

Washington Post Staff Writer

Samuel Dash, the chief counsel of the Senate select Watergate committee, has hired his wife's niece to work for the committee.

Now, because news accounts and some committee staff members have raised questions of propriety about his hiring a relative, Dash said he is considering whether she should be fired.

The job in question is an \$80-a-week messenger's position held by Barbara Shatten, 17, the daughter of Dash's wife's sister. Miss Shatten applied for the job on her own, Dash said, "and she got it on her own, though I didn't do anything to stop it."

He did intercede to prevent her from receiving a raise recommended by the committee's officer manager, he said.

"I'm probably discriminating against her," he said yesterday, "But under the circumstances I couldn't justify any job except that of a go-fer." (A "go-fer" is a messenger, one who is used to "go-fer" coffer and run errands.)

Members of the Senate committee knew that Miss Shatten was his relative, Dash said, but none suggested that her employment was improper.

There is some question whether a 1967 law covering the hiring of relatives by public officials applies to Miss Shatten's case, Dash said.

Dash's two daughters, Judith, 21, and Rachel, 17, have each worked for the separation-of-powers subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee and occasionally have done work for the Watergate committee, Dash said.

(The separation-of-powers subcommittee is chaired by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), who also heads the Watergate panel, and its chief counsel is Rufus L. Edmisten, Dash's deputy counsel on the Watergate committee.)

Judith Dash, a senior at Brown University this year, worked for the subcommittee last summer as a \$657-a-month research assistant. Rachel Dash is now a messenger there. Both were hired by Edmisten, Dash said, and there has been no suggestion that their employment was improper.

"I'm a bend-over-backwards guy when it comes to appearances," he said. "We're doing very important work here, and appearances are as important as reality sometimes."