

Sen. Baker Asks FBI To Probe Break-Ins

11/13/75 By Donald P. Baker
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Because of what he called "the remarkable similarities" between break-ins at the home of Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) last weekend and his own residence in August, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Ienn.) sent a request yesterday to FBI Director Clarence Kelley to "take a look at the two break-ins together."

Chief item among those "remarkable similarities," Baker said, was that nothing of value was taken in either burglary, although homes of both senators contained expensive furnishings.

Baker and Mathias are both members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which is probing activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, but both senators said there was no evidence to link either crime to their activities with the Committee.

Baker said that Mathias told him, "I've been Bakerized," in describing the break-in of Mathias' home in Chevy Chase. As in the burglary at Baker's home in Northwest Washington three months ago, personal papers were removed from drawers and closets, but little of value taken.

As with the Baker incident, the Mathias family was out-of-town when the burglary occurred. Entrance to Mathias' house, in the 3800 block of Leland Street, was made by forcing a kitchen window. The meticulous intruders carefully

moved house plants off the window sill so as not to break them, Mathias said.

In the Baker burglary, the intruders cut out a pane of glass from a basement door with such precision that it was later replaced unbroken by repairmen.

"You can't draw any conclusions" about the motive for the burglaries, Mathias said, "but you can speculate." And most speculation involves concern that the burglars were looking for top-secret documents that the senators might have taken home in connection with their inquiry into the CIA.

But Mathias said he "very, very seldom" has taken home "anything of real significance, and never any committee documents."

Baker said he works on committee documents in his office, but never at home.

Baker made his request for an FBI inquiry into the two break-ins in a personal letter to Director Kelley. Because Kelley was in Kansas City where his wife died this week, an FBI spokesman said yesterday the agency had no immediate official response to the request.