

# Baker Break-In Fruitless

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Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) had taken home internal Senate memos drafted by lawyers who have investigated Watergate and the Central Intelligence Agency before his unoccupied Washington house was broken into, according to Baker and key Senate aides.

At the time of the break-in here Monday or Tuesday, Baker had already taken one staff report from Washington to his home in Huntsville, Tenn. Baker said this was the only such memo he had removed from his office last Thursday, and none was left at his Washington residence. No documents were reported missing in the break-in.

The memos were not stamped as classified. Two aides described them as sensitive and dealing with information not publicly known. Baker said they were not sensitive.

There was no indication whether the intruders who ransacked Baker's home at 3224 Woodland Dr. NW were seeking these memos or other documents, or had unrelated aims.

Metropolitan police reported no clues and no suspects in the break-in, in which the burglars left thousands of dollars worth of possessions strewn about. The FBI said it withdrew from the investigation after concluding that no federal documents or other government property had been stolen. Baker himself said he had "no idea" why the break-in took place. "I'm absolutely baffled," he added.

"It's just certainly unusual, because the motive for the break-in wasn't robbery," said Nick Stames, agent in charge of the FBI's Washington field office. "So somebody was obviously looking for something."

Baker was the ranking Republican member of the Senate Watergate committee and is now a member of the Senate select committee on intelligence operations, which is investigating the CIA. He is also on the Senate Committees on Public Works and Foreign Relations as well as the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

Spokesmen for these committees said they believed Baker had no classified documents in his possession when the break-in occurred.

The memos that Baker has frequently taken home were drafted by two lawyers, Michael Madigan and Howard Liebengood. Both worked for the Senate Watergate committee. Madigan is now a Senate CIA committee counsel, and Liebengood is a committee consultant.

Both lawyers also drafted the Watergate committee's minority report, part of which was toned down at the CIA's request. Liebengood said Baker did not have copies of the original draft, known as the Baker report.

Baker is also playing an indirect role in a Senate committee investigation of allegations made against James F. Hooper, a White House nominee for the Tennessee Valley Authority's board of directors. But committee staff members said yesterday that the com-

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mittee now has no documents except for business records voluntarily submitted by Hooper.

The break-in, which police said took place between 3 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. Tuesday, was discovered by a caretaker making a routine visit to Baker's home. Baker, who left Washington Friday after Congress recessed, said there was about \$40,000 in personal effects in the house including camera equipment and furs—but apparently none of it was stolen.

In a telephone interview from Huntsville, Baker said he was not yet certain that none of his personal or other unclassified papers had been taken. "We'll have a better idea but I may never know for when we finish the clean-up, sure," he said.

A spokesman for the Senate CIA committee said yesterday that the committee members were alerted Tuesday after the break-in at Baker's home. The notification was meant as a reminder of risks of possible theft of sensitive or classified documents, the spokesman said.

Baker, who in the past has stressed possible CIA links to Watergate, asserted yesterday, "I do not believe the FBI or the CIA were involved in the break-in."

A CIA spokesman said, "We know nothing about it. We're not connected with it in any way." FBI spokesman Homer Boynton said, "The FBI did not break into Sen. Baker's house. I can assure you that story will never change."

Ron McMahan, Baker's press secretary, said Baker took home Thursday a staff summary based on classified material, considered putting it in his safe in Washington, but instead took it to Tennessee. McMahan said Baker frequently takes home similar reports and described them as "at least high sensitive, if not classified."

The safe, which Baker inherited, was unused until the senator found the combination last Thursday. It was hacked open during the break-in.

Madigan said the staff memos, which Baker often took home, stemmed from the Senate CIA investigation and included data both on the CIA and Watergate. Much of the information was not publicly known, Madigan said.

Baker stressed that the memos he took home, including the one he brought to Tennessee, do not contain classified or what he regards as other sensitive information. He said it would be "overreaching" to attribute any special significance to the memo he took to Tennessee.

Baker said yesterday he had rented the house for nine years, and had never had any crime problems before.

"Oh, we get all kinds of telephone calls, but that's a non-rarity in Washington," Baker said. None of those calls could have been interpreted as threats linked to the break-in, he said.

The home, assessed with the property at \$109,987, is in a wooded neighborhood of secluded homes valued between \$100,000 and \$200,000, according to tax records.

Many of these houses are separated from Woodland Drive by brick, ivy-covered walls; steep, landscaped inclines, or trees. Baker's home is separated from the street only by a small front yard.

The signs on many of the homes inform visitors that the home has an electronic security system, and that deliveries should be made in the rear.

Sen. William Brock (R-Tenn.) lives a block from the Baker home. Within three blocks are 10 embassies, the home of Sen. Hugh R. Scott (R-Pa.), and several physicians and psychiatrists.

Two neighbors reported they experienced burglaries similar to that of Baker.

Camilla Aiken, Baker's next-door neighbor at 3230 Woodland Dr., said her home had been broken into twice in the 17 years she has lived there. The entries were made by breaking a rear glass door, and the house was ransacked, she said.

One house away, a neighbor who asked not to be named said she had been burglarized three years ago when someone broke glass pane in her rear door. The intruder or intruders ransacked the house, she said, but she thought nothing had been taken until months later, when she could not account for an antique heirloom.

"People around here are always complaining about break-ins," said Andre Kirk of 3200 Woodland Dr. as he walked a German shepherd yesterday. "They look at this dog and say they wish they had one too."

Other accounts filed W/gate.

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