

Robert Baker Set To Pay U.S. 40,000; Suit to Be Dropped

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (AP) — Robert G. Baker agreed today to pay \$40,000 into the United States Treasury in return for the dropping of a Federal suit charging him with influence peddling.

Mr. Baker made no comment on his activities, which went back 10 years to when he was the chief Senate aide to Lyndon B. Johnson when Mr. Johnson was the majority leader.

The Justice Department had sought to recover \$108,000 that it said Mr. Baker had collected as a Johnson aide to influence Government decisions. Mr. Baker subverted a public trust, the department contended.

However, in the consent judgment effecting the agreement, the Justice Department said that apparently only about half of the original amount went to Mr. Baker personally.

William McDaniel, Mr. Baker's lawyer, said that the agreement did not constitute an admission of guilt.

As to why Mr. Baker settled, Mr. McDaniel said that a trial was not in Mr. Baker's personal or business interests.

A Justice Department lawyer, Stanley Paige, said that the amount recovered was substantial and that the judgment showed Government employees could not expect to keep the fruit of their illegal labor.

Mr. Baker, 45 years old, reportedly built a million-dollar fortune during his Senate service. He lives in Washington but has land development interests in Ocean City, Md.

He was paroled in June, 1972, after serving 17 months of a three-year sentence on seven counts, including underpayment of income taxes, pocketing of political contributions and accepting influence-peddling money.