

EHRlichman GETS A BAKER APOLOGY

Privilege to Stans Recalled
as Same for McCormack.

WASHINGTON, July 31 (AP) —Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, apologized Monday to John D. Ehrlichman for suggesting that he had been party to an irregular procedure in helping arrange for Maurice H. Stans, former Commerce Secretary and director of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, to avoid a grand jury appearance in the wiretapping case.

Senator Baker, a Republican from Tennessee, commented at today's televised hearings after John J. Wilson, attorney for Mr. Ehrlichman, called the committee's attention to a case in which the former House Speaker, John W. McCormack, Democrat of Massachusetts, had also avoided a grand jury appearance in a case involving a former aide.

Both Mr. Stans and Mr. McCormack gave depositions to prosecutors that were later read to the grand juries. Mr. Stans did so to avoid newsmen; Mr. McCormack, who was then still in office, did so on the ground that he had to avoid inconvenience in carrying out his duties. Mr. Stans was in private life at the time of his special interview with prosecutors.

Senator Baker said the committee would decide later about whether it was wise or advisable to arrange for a private deposition for Mr. Stans. But the Senator added:

"I apologize for previously

expressing my impression that that was an irregular procedure. Apparently, that is not on its face at least an irregular procedure, and I have nothing further to say about that."

The committee chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, said he still regarded the special treatment of Mr. Stans as "irregular in the sense that it is not regular, and I think it is very unfortunate."