Baker Says Nation is Past

The Worst of Watergate

CHICAGO, Sept. 10 (UPI)—Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee, said today that he thought the nation had weathered the worst part of Watergate and the issue now had "diminished importance."

"I have an idea the greatest crisis the country faced has passed on Watergate," he said in a speech to the National Office Products Associaton. Senator Baker s the vice chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee.

Despite that, Mr. Baker said, he does not believe the public would b satisfied if the Senate hearings stopped now. He sad the prevalng attitude was "don't stop, but finish as soon as you can."