

'Lessons of Watergate'

Sen. Baker on Elections**Great Neck, N.Y.**

Senator Howard Baker called last night for a "major overhaul" in the nation's political nominating system, urging either four regional presidential primaries or the popular election of national convention delegates.

Speaking on the "lessons of Watergate," the Tennessee Republican said the political system should be made "more accessible and more convenient, so more people can vote more easily and more often."

Baker suggested the abolition of the Electoral College and the possibility of keeping voting booths open 24

hours on national election day.

"We also need a major overhaul in our system of nominating presidential candidates," Baker said. "Four regional primaries, possibly corresponding to the four time zones, might be worth considering, as well as the idea of electing by popular vote convention delegates."

Baker, in his first appearance in the New York area since becoming vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, talked to about 1,500 persons gathered at Temple Emanuel in this affluent Long Island suburb.

In brief remarks to newsmen before his speech, Baker denied he is benefiting politically because of Watergate and declared, "I did not ask to go on the committee, and when I agreed to serve I saw as much chance for political disaster as for gain."

Asked if he thought the Watergate tapes might be altered even if the committee succeeded in obtaining

them, Baker said, "I'd rather have the tapes with the risk of alteration than not have them at all. I don't think the risk is substantial. I assume the President would give them to us intact."

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