

Baker Blames Nixon

Spokane, Wash.

President Nixon's spotty cooperation with the various Watergate investigations has caused the matter to drag on, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. said yesterday.

Baker (Rep-Tenn.), vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, told a news conference that if Mr. Nixon had fully cooperated from the start, the matter "would have been long past by now."

"The President's cooperation has, quite frankly, been spotty," Baker said. "I talked to him in February of last year, before we started our investigation, and urged him at that time to shed the doctrine on executive privilege. He did not.

"If he had cooperated from the start, if he had given us the information we sought, if he had given up the tapes when their existence became known, we would be long past Watergate now."

Associated Press