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Sen. Baker Home Here Ransacked

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The unoccupied home of Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., (R-Tenn.) was broken into and ransacked yesterday with thousands of dollars worth of furs, gold coins, photographic equipment and other personal effects left strewn about, D.C. police reported.

"Every closet, every drawer, including those in the kitchen, were dumped," said the senator's press secretary, Ron MacMahon. "I have talked to the senator and as far as we know there were no classified documents in the house," that could have been stolen.

Baker, ranking Republican member on the Senate Watergate committee, was at home with his family in Huntsville, Tenn., when the break-in was reported. Baker also is a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence Operations, which has been investigating the Central Intelligence Agency's activities.

Police and an aide to the senator said that items normally taken by burglars, such as a hunting weapon, furs and jewels, were not stolen.

At about 11 a.m. yesterday, the senator's caretaker, Paul J. Jackson, was making his daily visit to Baker's rented, eight-room home at

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Sen. Baker's NW Home Is Ransacked by Burglars

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3224 Woodland Dr., and reported it had been entered, police said.

The intruder, or intruders, broke a pane of glass in a window, reached in and let themselves in through a door police said.

A 3-foot high safe in the basement was hacked open and papers and personal effects, including three gold coins and a one-carat diamond ring, were scattered nearby on the floor, MacMahon said.

Several fur coats belonging to Mrs Baker were left in an upstairs closet, along with typewriters, television sets, a silver service set and other personal effects, MacMahon said. "Anything that an ordinary thief would take was not taken," he said. The manuscript for a book Baker is writing was not touched, MacMahon said.

He said the intruders used

a glass cutter to remove a window pane, and turned the safe upside down to penetrate it where there was the least steel thickness.

Police detectives said they did not believe the break-in was done by professionals because of the way the safe was entered.

In addition to the other items, the intruders left a shotgun Baker uses for hunting, an item that normally would have been taken by burglars, police said.

Alcoholic beverages in a bar at the home were not touched, police said. Mrs. Baker said there may have been a small amount of money in the house but police said they could not immediately determine whether any was missing.

The Baker home was placed under police surveillance following the break-in.

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more detailed story.