

Baker urges investigation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican leader Howard Baker urged President Carter yesterday to appoint a Watergate-style special prosecutor to investigate charges the South Koreans have been bribing members of Congress.

The White House rejected his proposal.

"I'm not saying it's a Democratic coverup," Baker,

ranking Republican on the old Senate Watergate Committee, said in asking Carter to put a special prosecutor in charge of the Korean probe.

"What I am saying in simple fairness is that the Democrats ought to be as willing to investigate their situation as fully and fairly as the Republicans were willing to investigate Watergate fully and fairly."

At a news conference, Baker said a special prosecutor, working with a grand jury, should handle the Korean bribery allegations because the much-criticized House Ethics Committee is not doing an adequate job of pressing its own, slow-moving investigation.

Most of those identified as suspects in the original bribery allegations are

Democrats.

The Ethics Committee and the Justice Department are conducting separate investigations into reports that South Korean agents doled out millions of dollars worth of gifts and favors to members of Congress in a covert lobbying operation that started in 1970. The alleged aim was to influence U.S. policy to the advantage of the Seoul government.

Some sources have said the House investigators have evidence that the Korean Central Intelligence Agency ran the operation, and Baker said the charges "are of sufficient importance that fairness and equity warrant extraordinary measures."

"There's enough smoke that there may be fire," he said. "But I'm not prepared to say that the KCIA is going to be the Democrats' Watergate."

White House press secretary Jody Powell responded tartly to Baker's proposal and suggested he is playing politics with the issue.

"It is well known that the attorney general and the Justice Department are involved in that," Powell said. "So far as I know there are no allegations that the Justice Department is not proceeding aggressively."

Baker's proposal, he said, is "a fairly adept two-step on the part of Sen. Baker. I have no desire to add to the attention which he would hope to attract."

41 die as fire destroys Ivory Coast night club

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (UPI) — A flash fire yesterday destroyed the Pasha nightclub killing at least 41 persons, all but two Europeans, who piled up against a jammed exit in a vain attempt to flee.

At least 41 corpses were taken out of the gutted interior of the club, a posh watering hole in west Africa for both European and African notables and which had just reopened two months ago after redecoration.

Police said all but two of the victims were Europeans — mainly French technicians working in this booming West European capital on various industrial projects.

The handful of African employees and a few patrons made a safe escape by racing through the fume-filled rooms and jumping from a back win-

dow onto a low porch six feet below.

At least 12 other Europeans were taken to a hospital with severe burns.

"Only a small number of persons managed to escape," a witness said. "They made their way through the smoke-filled hall to a backyard window one flight up and jumped out onto a low porch."

The fire started about 1 a.m. Thursday (8 p.m. EDT Wednesday) and quickly spread through the bar rooms.

The front door, the only exit known to customers, was jammed, trapping the patrons inside, another witness said. It was not known whether the lock blocked the door or whether it was stacked up with bodies of the fleeing customers.

The club was previously known as the In-Club and

catered mainly to African patrons. It reopened after being acquired by an Italian investor who had it redecorated and its new clientele included chiefly Europeans and Lebanese businessmen.

The two non-European victims were identified only as a mulatto woman and the son of a former Ivorian cabinet minister.

Police did not immediately publish the list of the victims, waiting to contact the next of kin.

The fire came less than two weeks after a similar disaster in Southgate, Kentucky, where 160 patrons died in the fire of the Beverly Hills Supper Club.

The Pasha club was located upstairs over a restaurant and several shops.

NOW head condemns Anita

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Eleanor Smeal, National Organization for Women president, has condemned entertainer Anita Bryant's crusade against a homosexual rights ordinance in Florida.

"teaching intolerance and bigotry — paths which lead only to violence and killing." Brvant led a movement,

called the "Save Our Children" crusade against an ordinance guaranteeing homosexuals fair housing and employment in Dade County.

In a referendum Tuesday, voters repealed the measure.

Smeal noted that the campaign against the ordinance led to bumper

stickers which said "kill a queer for Christ" and labeled people as "human garbage."

She said the tactics in the Miami campaign resembled those used by Nazis in the persecution of Jews.

"This makes you wonder how far we are from Hitler's solutions for Jews," she said.

"We are told Anita Bryant is going national on this and other issues. Who next will be denied their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" Smeal said.

Smeal recently was elected president of the 55,000-member women's rights organization.



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