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# Defense, Space Bigwigs Tied to Quorum Club

By David Kraslow  
The Los Angeles Times

Some of the Nation's largest defense and space contractors are represented in the membership list of the Quorum Club, an intimate luncheon and cocktail hideaway on Capitol Hill that was formed by the law firm of former Senate Majority Secretary Robert G. (Bobby) Baker. Until he resigned his post under fire, Baker was one of only 31 Government employees in the Club that has among its members representatives of some of the biggest names in

private industry. It is located in the Carroll Arms Hotel.

A 1963 membership list for the Club shows 197 members. Representatives of some 90 companies, including national trade and professional associations, are shown to be members.

The probe of Baker's activities stemmed initially from his reported involvement in a vending machine company that has franchises with defense and space contractors.

### Contractors Listed

Representatives of some of those contractors are members of the Club.

Leonard F. Lee, vice president of the Tennessee Gas Transmission Co., is a member. That firm was the owner of a \$125,000 Washington mansion in which Baker now resides.

Edward M. Bostick, president of Melpar, Inc., defense contractors, is a member.

A court suit filed by Capitol Vending Co., Inc., against Baker charged that Baker used his influence to get Melpar to cancel its contract with the vending company.

Baker was a charter member when the Quorum Club was founded in the spring of 1961. Baker's law partner, Ernest Tucker, was one of the club's incorporators. Tucker also is a codefendant in the vending machine suit.

### Six Legislators in Club

The 31 public payrollers shown on the 1963 membership roster include only four Senators—all Democrats—and only two Representatives—both Republicans, as well as

two top aides to Vice President Lyndon Johnson.

The four Democratic Senators are Daniel B. Brewster of Maryland, Frank Church of Idaho, J. Howard Edmondson of Oklahoma and Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey.

The two Representatives are William H. Ayres of Ohio and James F. Battin of Montana.

The two Johnson aides are Walter Jenkins and George E. Reedy.

Also on the roster are A. F. (Matty) Matthews, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and aides to Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) (George H. Buschmann), Sen. Howard Cannon (D-Nev.) (John F. Conlon), Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) (Lee Williams), Burton W. Cameron, a former aide to Rep. George F. Senner Jr. (D-Ariz.) is also on the membership list.

Scott I. Peek, who resigned recently as top aide to Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.) to enter private business in Miami, was the club's first president.

The staff directors of the Senate Small Business Committee (Lewis G. Odom Jr.) and the House District of Columbia Committee (Clayton D. Gasque) and a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (John H. Yingling) are among the members.

Other "Government" members include two Navy admirals (Rear Adms. Samuel R. Brown Jr. and Bernard F. Roeder), a former Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs (Howard E. Haugerud) and three Commerce Department offi-

cial (Selim M. Karagulla and Bernard E. Pollak Jr., both of the Office of International Trade Promotion, and Samuel S. Spaulding, Bureau of International Commerce).

According to its charter, the Club was organized "to establish, maintain and operate a club for literary purposes, mutual improvement and the promotion of social intercourse."

### "Nothing Sinister"

One member of the Club, who asked that he not be identified, said Saturday "there is nothing sinister about the organization

"We needed some place near the Hill where people could eat lunch, have a drink and talk in private. That's all there is to it."

He said the Club is open only from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends.

Membership is restricted to men, but women guests are permitted.

One member heatedly denied reports that table stake poker games were practically a daily occurrence in the club.

"I'm sure there has been an occasional card game," he said, "just like a lot of other clubs around town. Like the National Press Club, for instance."

An announcement in 1961 launching the Club said the initiation fee for members would be \$50 and annual dues would be \$25.

Instead of keys, according to the announcement, members were to receive specially treated cards which, when touched to the doorplate, would automatically open the door.