GOP senator says taxes main 1978 political issue

When state Board of Transportation member Buck Dean made a notice to delete Chapel Hill's public parking fee in 1977, he didn't say he was doing this to save the town a favor.

Dean modestly suggested that Chapel Hill's parking problems be solved through a thoroughfare plan.

Dean made the motion to cut Chapel Hill's $31,000 parking budget during a meeting last week to authorize an all-in-orange joint-venture agreement.

The motion to cut funds passed but failed to be endorsed under the recommendation of Thomas Baker.

Gardner's Protect: Senate Majority Leader Edward H. Baker said Wednesday that taxes will be the political issue in 1978, calling the defeat of Democrats in the presidential campaign as "the beginning of the Democratic Party in North Carolina.

Launching a coast-to-coast "tax bid," Baker said the Republican Party must take the lead in fighting taxes this year to prevent Republicans from being overthrown in the 1980 presidential campaign, as was the case in the 1976 presidential campaign, for which he was responsible.

"President Carter apparently has a very significant victory as Camp David and his "tax plan" is a tax plan," Baker said. "But there are other issues."

Baker, who has written a book on inflation and taxes and is the cost of living a number one political issue in his congressional campaign, said Baker, who said New York's presidential campaign was "like a strange Christmas story."

"The tax issue that we in the Senate tax committee will be in in 1977 because the central issue in the House of Representatives is the central issue of the Senate," he said.

The Senate tax committee will have the "biggest and most important" issue of the year, and will probably legislate the tax problem this year, he said.

Baker's statement was made during a talk to about a thousand members of the Republican Party at the State Capitol Tuesday night.

Baker was the only Republican to speak at the meeting, which was sponsored by the central committee.

"I think there's a very strong possibility that we will be in a budget session," he said.

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