

# Hill Eyes Full Nixon Tax Audit

## More Data Promised

12/11/73

By Carroll Kilpatrick  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation may go beyond the two areas President Nixon asked it to study and conduct a complete audit of his tax returns, Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) said yesterday.

Long's statement came as the White House announced that the President hoped before Christmas to supply Congress with three more packets of information designed to defend his name against charges of scandal.

Long, who is vice chairman of the committee and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the joint committee will meet Wednesday with its staff to decide on the course of its investigation.

"It probably will take a month or more for our able staff of tax lawyers and accountants to conduct this inquiry, question various persons and determine the facts," Long said. "It has not been decided yet whether to hold hearings."

Declaring that the committee did not want to keep anything confidential, Long said that "when we have the facts in hand, we will make them available to the American public."

See FINANCES, A14, Col. 5

## GOP Presses Unit

12/11/73

By David S. Broder  
Washington Post Staff Writer

House Judiciary Committee Republicans agreed at a closed caucus yesterday to press for "expeditious action" on the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

Without directly criticizing Judiciary Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.), the committee's 17 Republicans set the stage for charges of foot-dragging against the 21-member Democratic majority.

"There were some apprehensions expressed that they might want to string it out, to the country's detriment, as well as our own," said one GOP member after the session.

While not setting a specific timetable as a target for the committee, the Republican members made two procedural suggestions that may draw controversy at a meeting of the full committee today.

They urged that the preliminary phases of the investigation be turned over to a "manageable subcommittee," suggesting that it consist of five Democrats and four Republicans.

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# Hill Eyes Full Nixon Tax Audit

## FINANCES, From A1

In making his tax returns public last weekend, Mr. Nixon said he was asking the joint committee to look into the question of his claimed deduction of \$576,000 for the gift of his vice presidential papers and the non-payment of a capital gains tax on the sale of property adjoining his San Clemente home.

Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) chairman of the joint committee and of the House Ways and Means Committee said the committee had no choice but to accede to the President's request.

"If any individual taxpayer asks us to look into his return, we will," Mills said.

At the White House, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon wanted to present Congress and the public with reports on the ITT case, the milk fund and the so-called plumbers operation before members go home for the Christmas holidays.

The President has scheduled a meeting today on the 1974 campaign with Vice President Ford, GOP national chairman George Bush, Sen. Bill Brock (Tenn.) and Rep. Robert H. Michel (Ill.), chairmen, respectively, of the Senate and House Republican campaign committees.

The President's desire to supply Congress with additional material on Watergate-related matters and to meet with GOP campaign leaders was believed to reflect his recognition that the month-long congressional adjournment could decisively influence the congressional attitude toward impeachment.

Some members have said that they will test sentiment

while in their districts for Christmas to determine the public attitude for or against impeachment.

The mixed reception which the President's release of his tax returns brought was reflected in comments on Capitol Hill.

Senate Whip Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.) said he hoped the nation would credit the President with an "unprecedented step" in disclosing his financial transactions and not engage in "nitpicking."

But Rep. Charles Vanik (R-Ohio), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said "there is something awfully wrong with a tax system that lets anyone making \$200,000 a year or more pay a tax rate of 4 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The President's case presents the best evidence yet of the need for long-overdue tax reform."

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said: "It is my belief that what he (the President) has done is legal, but it still raises questions of appearances."

In the House, responding to the report that Mr. Nixon

paid no state income taxes, Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said he paid \$875 per quarter in Oklahoma and Democratic Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill said he paid \$2,000 a year in Massachusetts.

The White House has insisted that its voluminous report on the President's finances showed he did nothing illegal, and it issued a separate 12-page statement listing published allegations and White House answers to them.

It said that Mr. Nixon spent "up to \$25,000" of his own money to employ Coopers & Lybrand, certified public accountants, to audit the President's returns.

Among the allegations, the White House cited a Washington Post headline of Aug. 7, 1973, which said: "\$10 Million Spent On Nixon Homes."

The facts, said the White House, show that "only 2 per cent — or about \$200,000 — has actually been spent on the President's homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne."

The Post story was based on a General Services Administration report issued at

White House instructions that said a total of nearly \$10 million was spent for new construction, repairs, security installations and communications at the presidential compounds in California and Florida.

The second paragraph of the story went on to say that "the White House revealed that \$5.9 million was spent for military facilities — mainly communications installations — at Mr. Nixon's homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne and at the island resort in the Bahamas owned by the President's close friend, New York industrialist Robert H. Abplanalp."



# Impeachment Action Pressed

## IMPEACH, From A1

Second, they suggested that the subcommittee conduct all its work in closed session, on the grounds that its proceedings are comparable to those of a grand jury in an ordinary criminal proceeding, which are protected from public disclosure.

Both the suggestions — that the investigation be entrusted to nine members of the committee, presumably high in seniority, and that its work be closed to the public—are likely to draw opposition from junior Democrats on Judiciary, who have led the fight for impeachment proceedings.

But Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), a high-ranking liberal Democrat, said he thought most Democrats agreed to the necessity of a smaller unit than the 38-man committee starting the proceedings and could see a case for keeping at least the preliminary proceedings secret.

"What the Republicans want is attainable," Kastenmeier said. "I don't think there should be a partisan split on this."

A meeting of the full Judiciary Committee is scheduled for today, with the possibility that Rodino may use the occasion to brief the members on his search for a special counsel to head the investigation of the President.

In a statement Sunday, the chairman said he expected to make the choice "before Christmas." He has reportedly been in contact with various Republican judges and former Justice Department officials, but has not shared his thoughts with others on the committee.

Meantime, Rodino said, a staff of 31 people, drawn from the committee's regular payroll and the General Accounting Office, has been working under the committee's general counsel, Jerome Zeifman.

Much of their work, thus far, has centered on obtaining and analyzing investigative reports from other congressional committees that have studied Watergate-related matters, campaign finances and other transactions involving the President.

Rodino has received complaints from some committee Democrats about the lack of visible progress on impeachment in the past six weeks. The matter was referred to the committee on Oct. 22 and the House voted \$1 million for the investigation on Nov. 15.

In recent days, several Republicans have charged that the Democrats are prolonging the impeachment proceedings in order to bring them into the 1974 mid-term election period.

In an interview on the public television program, Washington Straight Talk, last night, Republican National Chairman George Bush said, "I expect they (the Democrats) will continue to drag it on out, but at some point, the American people are going to say, 'Get off his back.'"

Kastenmeier, on the other hand, said that charge was "not plausible," because the liberal Democrats accused of that tactic are themselves under the strongest pressure of any members of Congress to impeach the President.