

# Sex And the Tax Man



ELSA GUTIERREZ  
24-hour police protection

**Miami**

An alleged spy operation that focused on the sex and drinking habits of 30 prominent Miamians grew out of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force, it was reported yesterday.

The spy network, known as Operation Leprechaun, was disclosed Friday in a copyrighted story by the Miami News. Source for the article was a 34-year-old woman who claims she was engaged by the IRS for the spying operation.

The Miami Herald quoted sources yesterday as saying the spying evolved from a joint IRS-strike force probe of corruption among local officials. Spokesmen for both agencies, however, denied any knowledge that the

operation focused on the officials' sex habits.

"The last thing we were interested in were the sex lives of anybody . . . We have neither the time nor the inclination," said Douglas McMillan, the Miami-based regional director of the strike force.

The Herald quotes McMillan as saying the IRS and the strike force collaborated in 1972 "in an intelligence-gathering operation aimed at corruption and organized crime."

Leon Levine, IRS operations chief in Washington, told the Herald the probe originated with the strike force, not with the IRS.

"The preliminary indications are very much that not only what turned out to be Operation Leprechaun, but perhaps a good bit of the en-

tire investigative probe that was envisioned, really came out of the strike force," Levine said.

The IRS probe, according to Levine, was intended to focus on tax-related matters.

The IRS has sent teams of investigators here to look into the allegations and State Attorney Richard Gerstein, one of the alleged targets of the spying operation, said he will take the matter before the Dade county grand jury.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Intelligence Operations also may seek testimony from Elsa Gutierrez, the informant in the case, Gerstein said. Mrs. Gutierrez is under 24-hour police protection because she says she fears IRS retaliation.

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