Q. Is it true that President Nixon paid no federal income tax on his \$200,000 salary for the years 1970 and 1971?—D. L., Baltimore, Md.

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A. He probably paid a small amount, if any, because of his large interest payments and real estate taxes on his San Clemente and Key Biscayne properties. Those payments were deductible, as was his massive, controversial deduction of \$570,000 for a gift of his Vice Presidential papers. The White House declines to make public President Nixon's income tax returns, and there is no reason why it should, although Nixon did make his return public when he was a candidate for the office.