

Nixon Paid Tax, Official Says

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By Susanna McBee
and Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writers

A high White House spokesman said yesterday that President Nixon paid federal income taxes in 1970 and 1971, contrary to some published reports that suggested he might not have.

The comment came shortly after deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren repeated what he had said on the matter Tuesday: "I am not going to discuss the President's income taxes. I think that's a personal matter, and I'm just not going to discuss it."

Several White House officials stressed the personal nature of income taxes, but one said, "It would be incorrect to draw the conclusion from Warren's remarks that the President paid no taxes."

The highly placed spokesmen who declined to comment said emphatically that the President did pay taxes every year since he had been in the White House.

His comments countered news reports saying Mr. Nixon may have been among 111 persons in 1970 and 72 in 1971 who made more than \$100,000 but paid no federal income taxes.

The White House spokesman said the reports were based on an assumption that Mr. Nixon did not pay the 1969 tax on the gift of the California ranch. The Internal Revenue Service in 1969 had ruled that the gift was a taxable event. The White House said the reports were based on the 1970 and 1971 returns.

A public information firm here, Tax Advocates, has been studying the possible use of the White House papers.

The President gave the papers to the archives in March, 1969, the law allowed him to count the value of them against 30 percent of his income in 1969 and 50 percent in subsequent years.

In 1969 the Tax Reform Act

was passed forbidding tax write-offs for such gifts made after July 25, 1969. A White House official told The Washington Post last June that Mr. Nixon took a deduction from his 1969 income taxes for the gift.

Ira L. Tannenbaum, director of Tax Advocates, said yesterday that "a reasonable inference from these admissions is that the President carried forward any unused deduction in subsequent years."

Informed of the White House officials' denial that Mr. Nixon failed to pay taxes for 1970 and 1971, Tannenbaum said "the White House

ble, but I'd love to see his returns.

The tax lawyer insisted, "The President is not entitled to a deduction. He never signed the deed giving the papers to the archives, and the General Services Administration has not signed anything officially accepting the gift. Mere physical transfer of the documents is not enough."

GSA, which handles government property, confirmed that it had not signed for the gift. Some archives officials have said the documents actually counted as gifts were not se-

lected until 1969, which might reinforce Tannenbaum's contention that Mr. Nixon missed the deadline for the write-off.

The Internal Revenue Service refused to comment on the matter, noting that it is forbidden by law to disclose the tax affairs of anyone. It did confirm that the President has year since he took office in 1969.

Mr. Nixon said last week at his news conference that his 1971 and 1972 returns had been audited by the IRS and that no change was ordered.

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White House spokesman said emphatically that the President has paid taxes every year since he has been in the White House.

His comments countered news reports saying Mr. Nixon may have been among 111 persons in 1970 and 72 in 1971 who made more than \$200,000 but paid no federal income taxes.

The articles were based on the assumption that if Mr. Nixon claimed a massive deduction for donating his vice presidential papers to the National Archives in 1969, that deduction plus interest payments and real estate taxes on his California and Florida homes would be enough to cancel his tax liabilities for 1970 and perhaps 1971.

A public interest tax law firm here, Tax Analysts and Advisors, has challenged the possible use of the gift of the papers, which were transferred to the archives in March 1969, the law allowed him to count the value of them against 30 percent of his income in 1969 and 50 percent in subsequent years.

In 1969 the Tax Reform Act

was passed forbidding tax write-offs for such gifts made after July 25, 1969. A White House official told The Washington Post last June that Mr. Nixon took a deduction from his 1969 income taxes for the gift of his vice presidential papers to the National Archives. The official said that the President's lawyer had advised him that the deduction was allowable under the law in effect at the time. The White House spokesman denied that Mr. Nixon took no taxes for 1970 and 1971. Tannen-

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