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Bennett Sets Probe on Nixon Tax

Sacramento

California's income tax board has been asked to determine whether President Nixon is meeting any California income tax obligations he may have.

The request came from William M. Bennett, a member of the three-man state Franchise Tax Board, Bennett disclosed yesterday.

Bennett, a Democrat, said he is asking the board to discuss the matter at a December 11 meeting. The other two members are Republican Verne Orr, state finance director, and state Controller Houston I. Flournoy, also a Republican.

Flournoy was unavailable for comment. But his deputy, Kirk West, said he assumed the Nixon tax issue would come up at the December 11 meeting if Bennett requested it.

West said he thought the tax board would first go into executive session to determine the reasons for Bennett's request and to hear any information from Bennett. "We're very mindful of the confidentiality laws protecting the tax returns of any individual," West said.

Associated Press