

Ford Tax Audit Costs Him

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Vice presidential nominee Gerald R. Ford had gross income of \$454,667.07 and paid federal income taxes of \$150,250.17 in the six years from 1967 to 1972, according to an audit of Ford's tax returns prepared for the Senate Rules Committee by the Internal Revenue Service.

The audit didn't turn up anything questionable for the years 1967 to 1971. But the IRS discovered that in 1972 Ford—not usually considered a natty dresser—claimed \$871.44 as a business expense deduction for clothes he bought to wear at the Republican National Convention.

Although Ford contended he needed the new clothes for his role as convention chairman, the IRS promptly disallowed the deduction and billed him for \$435.77, the amount of tax owed, without penalty. According to one committee Republican, Ford insisted that the deduction was valid, but finally decided to pay the assessment lest it hold up the vote on his nomination as Vice President. The IRS received his check Nov. 9.