

Tax Inquiry Reportedly Dropped *Part 5/14/74*

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 14 (UPI)—A tax-fraud investigation of the chief political aide of former Illinois Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie was dropped after Ogilvie met with then-attorney General John . Mitchell to discuss the inquiry, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch said today.

The newspaper said the meeting June 12, 1969, concerned the investigation of Thomas J. Drennan, a Chicago public relations man and Ogilvie's chief political aide during his 1968 campaign.

After the meeting, the Post-Dispatch said, the Internal Revenue Service's investigation came to an end. The government took no

action against Drennan.

Ogilvie, a Republican, denied he had ever discussed Drennan's tax problem with Mitchell.

The Post-Dispatch said Jeremiah Marsh, Ogilvie's legal aide, also sat in on the meeting with Mitchell in Mitchell's Washington office.

The newspaper said Ogilvie, Marsh, Chicago lawyer Joseph Lamendella and Anthony Gabriel, a state policeman assigned to the governor's security force, flew from Chicago to Washington in a plane owned by a Chicago company and flown by one of its pilots.

Lamendella and Gabriel waited in an outer office

while Ogilvie and Marsh went into Mitchell's office for the conference, which lasted 30 to 45 minutes, the Post-Dispatch said.

"I never discussed the merits of Drennan's income-tax problem with Mr. Mitchell at any time," Marsh said. "I don't recall having taken such a trip. I made several trips."

On Jan. 28, 1970, Drennan denied charges that he was receiving more money from the state of Illinois than Ogilvie himself. Drennan said at the time that he received \$37,000 a year from the state in accounts handled by his firm. Ogilvie was then paid \$45,000 a year as governor.