

Star-News Says Reporter Got Tax Quiz After Story

United Press International

The Washington Star-News said yesterday the White House obtained confidential income tax information about a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter after he wrote about Herbert W. Kalmbach's role in raising secret campaign funds.

The Star-News said the information was uncovered by the House Judiciary Committee as part of its impeachment inquiry from an unsigned report and a memo sent by John W. Dean III to top White House aides.

The indictment involved James R. Polk, who won the prize this year for his articles disclosing secret campaign

funding, including that by financier Robert Vesco. Polk at the time of the Kalmbach article was a freelance reporter working for the Star-News. He since has joined its staff.

The newspaper said the unsigned report also said "a discreet check" was being made of telephone calls placed from Polk's suburban McLean, Va. home. Both the report and the Dean memo was dated Feb. 1, 1972, a day before the Star-News ran the story of Kalmbach, President Nixon's lawyer.

The Dean memo, according to the Star-News, said he had been told by White House counsel Charles Colson that

the administration could do nothing to stop the publication of the story.

The unsigned report—which also did not specify to whom it was sent—included data taken from Polk's tax returns and other information on International News, Inc., of which Polk was part owner, the Star-News said.

"An audit might resultingly be in order," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

The writer (of the report) has directed that because of the sensitivities of the ongoing inquiry no audit be initiated unless direction comes from the inquiring source. . . ."

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