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Nixon Tax Leaker Quits

Washington

An Internal Revenue Service employee, tracked down by investigators as the individual who leaked information about President Nixon's income tax returns to a newspaper, quit his job under a threat of being fired, IRS officials said yesterday.

The former employee, whom the officials refused to identify, also faced possible criminal charges for his action, but the Justice Department, after studying the case decided against prosecution, spokesmen said.

According to other sources, investigators solved

the mystery by tracing photocopies of the Nixon tax records to the machine which produced them at the IRS national computer center in Martinsburg, W. Va.

Disclosure of information about individual tax returns is illegal.

Publication of details of Mr. Nixon's tax returns by the Providence, R.I., Journal-Bulletin last October 3 was a key development in the controversy over the President's income taxes.

The newspapers, quoting what they said were documents provided by government sources, reported that Mr. Nixon had paid a total

of \$1670 in federal income taxes in 1970 and 1971 and received refunds totalling \$131,503 for the two years.

The Journal-Bulletin has refused to give any information on how it obtained the presidential tax records, which like all other individual tax returns are privileged under federal law.

Another source familiar with the case said the IRS employee who saw Mr. Nixon's records was so incensed over what he found that he decided to make the details public in defiance of IRS regulations, and furnished them to the newspaper.

Associated Press