

# IRS Chief Opposes Privacy Bill

## Washington

Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Donald C. Alexander said yesterday proposals to bar IRS inspection of an individual's bank records without a search warrant would "seriously threaten" IRS tax enforcement activities.

Alexander told the House Civil Liberties Subcommittee that the measure would "substantially curtail the service's ability to secure proof of both civil and

criminal tax law violations in a large portion of its normal audit, collection and intelligence cases."

The subcommittee is considering a measure to bar the inspection of a taxpayer's bank records or other transactions without a search warrant or the consent of the individual involved.

Alexander said that such "access to the records of an individual's or organization's financial transactions is necessary to permit the service's agents to deter-

mine whether a taxpayer has filed a correct return.

Without such access, Alexander said, "we would have to rely largely upon informants to establish probable existence of a crime."

The IRS is empowered to obtain the financial records of taxpayers from banks or other institutions by issuing its own summonses. Alexander said the IRS issued "thousands each year."

*United Press*