

Memo Tells of Pressure on IRS

Washington

Members of the White House staff allegedly made repeated attempts to get the Internal Revenue Service to conduct "political actions and investigations" but were often balked by President Nixon's own appointees, according to a document submitted yesterday to Senate investigators.

The document, an internal memorandum partly written by John W. Dean III and partly by John Caulfield, complained that the first two IRS commissioners appointed by Mr. Nixon had been "afraid and unwilling to do anything with IRS that could be politically helpful."

For example, the memorandum stated, "we have been unable to obtain information in the possession of IRS regarding our political enemies" and "we have been unable to stimulate audits of persons who should be audited."

The two commissioners

named were Randolph W. Thrower, who served during the first two years of the Nixon administration and Johnnie M. Walters, who served until this spring.

SUCCESS

At least one such politically motivated audit was, however, a successfully suggested to Internal Revenue, according to testimony that the investigators heard Monday. This was an audit of Robert Greene of Newsday, the Long Island newspaper. Greene headed a team of reporters who investigated President Nixon's friend Charles (Bebe) Rebozo.

The request for that audit was made by Caulfield, according to Dean's account. Whether it came before or after the date of the memorandum that was made public yesterday was not clear because the memo was undated.

It had long been reported by members of the Tax Bar and others familiar with Internal Revenue that both Thrower and Walters had been asked to resign because they had been unresponsive to White House requests.

PRESSURE

Thrower told the Washington Post that he resisted "strong pressure" from the White House in 1970 to hire Caulfield or G. Gordon Liddy, to head an expanded IRS program to crack down on radicals.

Walters declined to discuss any of the disclosures.

New York Times