

Probe of IRS

Audit Use Is Ordered

The congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation directed its staff yesterday to investigate charges raised in the Senate Watergate hearings that the administration sought to use income tax audits against its enemies.

Replying to a letter from Laurence N. Woodworth, the joint Committee's chief of staff, Donald C. Alexander, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, pledged the "full cooperation" of the Internal Revenue Service in the investigation.

On Wednesday, Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.) chairman of the Senate select Watergate committee, released documents submitted to the committee by former presidential counsel John W. Dean III that showed the White House had tried to persuade the IRS to conduct audits of the tax returns of "political enemies" of the Nixon administration.

In his letter to Alexander requesting IRS cooperation, Woodworth said the Joint Committee staff would "investigate the returns and audits of everyone who has recently been named in the material released in the Ervin hearings as possibly receiving favorable or unfavorable treatment from the Internal Revenue Service."