

New Head of I.R.S. Calls Public Trust Agency's Top Goal

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WASHINGTON, July 15 — Donald C. Alexander, the new Commissioner of Internal Revenue, believes that one of his most important tasks will be "maintaining public confidence in this agency."

However, he does not believe that he can assign a top priority to investigation of all the various types of wrongdoing that have been alleged during the Senate hearings into the Watergate scandal.

The hearings will resume tomorrow with further testimony by Richard A. Moore, a special counsel to President Nixon, who was on the stand last who was on the stand last Moore is to be followed as a witness by Herbert W. Kalmbach, former personal West Coast attorney for Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Alexander, who became commissioner on May 30, said in an interview that he already had under way his own "in-house investigation" of allegations that "enemies" of the

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I.R.S. CHIEF SAYS TRUST IS HIS GOAL

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Nixon Administration had had their tax returns audited and friends had tax cases against them dropped.

This is the same question that is being looked into by the staff of the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue-Taxation. But Mr. Alexander said he felt the need to conduct his own inquiry as well "to satisfy ourselves that we have the agency we think we had in the past and we darned well are going to have in the future."

Not First Priority

On the other hand, he said he would not give a No. 1 priority to investigation of the possibility that some individuals who handled large amounts of

cash during the 1972 Republican Presidential campaign may have kept some of the money and not reported it as income.

Investigation of some of the other allegations should await further development of specific information, Mr. Alexander said. That was the category into which he put the allegation by John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, that John J. Caulfield, the former New York police detective who became a White House aide, had successfully ordered an audit of at least one person whose name was not on either of the two published lists of Administration "enemies."

To Check Political Gifts

Mr. Alexander said he was not yet making an effort to uncover Mr. Caulfield's supposed contact in the Internal Revenue Service because "I'd like to see some names named by somebody who contends that he has some personal knowledge, as

contrasted with A saying that B told C that D did something."

Another matter in which the I.R.S. is "interested" but to which he does not assign a top priority, he said, is the possibility that some individuals or corporations made political contributions in 1972 and illegally deducted these gifts on their tax returns.

Mr. Alexander, who is 52 years old, is a well known tax lawyer and formerly a partner in the Cincinnati firm of Dismore, Shohl, Coates & Deupree. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and was editor of The Law Review.

When he was nominated to be Commissioner on March 19, he had some ideas about improvements he would like to make in Internal Revenue, Mr. Alexander said.

Now, however, his "new priority" is "maintaining public confidence" in the service, "and what that means is that this organization and I are

going to go straight down the middle as far as politics is concerned." "Politics has no part in the tax system," he added.

Concept of Task

The job ahead of him, as he sees it, is "to prove over the long run and in a way that preserves the confidentiality of taxpayer information, that I.R.S. is doing its job well, and that it's doing it fairly and even-handedly."

"That can only be demonstrated to the public over a long and sometimes tortuous period of time," he said. "I've got no magic solution because words won't do it."

Among the changes he wants to put into effect are an expansion of the commissioner's advisory group, to include representatives from "the public interest sector."

He has in mind persons from public interest law firms that concentrate on tax issues, such as Tax Analysts and Advocates,

and from broader organizations that also get into the tax field, such as Common Cause.

Mr. Alexander said that individuals from such liberal-left organizations "could make meaningful contributions to tax administration and may not have the same views" as the corporate tax lawyers and establishment professors who have previously made up the membership of the advisory group.

He added: "Some of my best friends are 'enemies.'"

Mr. Alexander hopes to increase the number of tax audits made by Internal Revenue by terminating some of the less useful work done in the agency.