

President's Offer Accepted

Congress to Probe Nixon Tax Returns

A Study by California Also Set

Washington

The chairman of the Senate-House Joint Committee on Internal Taxation has agreed to President Nixon's request that his tax returns for the years he has been president be scrutinized.

Representative Wilburn D. Mills (Dem-Ark.) will head the investigation into two controversial aspects of the President's tax returns made public Saturday.

And the California Franchise Tax Board will include the question of Mr. Nixon's tax status in California on the agenda for its regular meeting tomorrow in Sacramento.

White House sources said if the two hearings go against the President it was possible Mr. Nixon might have to pay \$296,333 in federal taxes and between \$15,000 and \$16,000 in California taxes.

Although listed as voting in California and owning the half-million-dollar San Clemente estate, Mr. Nixon paid no income taxes in that state from 1969 through 1972.

Mr. Nixon telephoned Mills Thursday, according to the New York Times, to ask him to undertake the tax scrutiny and the 64-year-old lawmaker agreed.

"I will abide by the committee's judgment," Mr. Nixon said in a statement Saturday. But there was no indication when the tax committee will meet.

The committee is charged

specifically with ruling on the legality of the tax free sale by Mr. Nixon of land adjoining his San Clemente property for a profit of \$117,370 and the deduction of \$576,000 he claimed for giving his vice presidential papers to the National Archives.

Mr. Nixon, in attempting to rebut allegations that he profited illegally during his presidential tenure, gave an

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unprecedented accounting Saturday of all his financial transactions over the past 5½ years.

It showed he paid a smaller percentage of his income in federal taxes over that period than a family of four with an income of \$8000. His net worth tripled since he became President and he is now a millionaire.

Mr. Nixon pledged that if the tax committee rules against him on the amount he wrote off for the Archives gift and the San Clemente property sale, he will pay up.

Mills is head of the committee, which is composed of five representatives and five senators. Six of the group are Democrats and four Republicans.

The President insisted that everything he did was legal but others questioned the transaction.

Ira Tannenbaum, director of a public interest group that first questioned whether Mr. Nixon's tax deduction on the papers gift was legal, said yesterday it still was not clear whether the transfer was made before the legal cutoff date, July 25, 1969.

Mr. Nixon, in making "full disclosure" of his personal income and taxes, conceded Saturday that "questions

and controversies may continue as a consequence" of the unprecedented release of the statistics.

The Nixon financial statement also revealed:

- The President over a four-year period spent only \$63,029 of his \$266,000 expense allowance over that period and took the rest as personal income.

- He borrowed heavily from friends and \$25,000 from his elder daughter, Tricia Cox, to buy property at Key Biscayne, Fla. Mrs. Cox, made a \$111,270 profit on the transaction over five years.

- The government spent \$6 million to construct and maintain the San Clemente office complex on adjacent government property, \$635,000 on the grounds for security purposes and \$68,000 on the home itself for security-related reasons.

- San Clemente will be given to the government after death of Mr. Nixon and his wife.

In a statement Saturday accompanying the release of his financial affairs, Mr. Nixon said:

"No previous President, to my knowledge, has ever made so comprehensive and exhaustive a disclosure as I am making today, with regards to assets and liabilities, expenses and income, during his tenure of office.

"The purpose of my release of these papers," he said, "is to answer questions that have arisen, to remove doubts that have been raised and to correct misinformation that currently exists about what I have earned, and what I own."

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said he would not draw any moral judgments on the basis of how much taxes Mr. Nixon

paid over the past four years.

"I'm not one to judge any other person's morality," he said. "I would have to assume that what he's done is legal."

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott said the released statistics "should end the speculation that the President was involved in any illegal financial transaction or used campaign monies for personal gain."

"All of his income, outgo, expenditures and taxes has been accounted for and audited, and the tax returns have been made available to the Congress and the press," he said.

The President personally paid \$25,000 for the audit.

United Press

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