

Committee May Audit Nixon's Returns Fully

Washington

The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation may go beyond the two areas President Nixon asked it to study and conduct a complete audit of his tax returns, Senator Russell B. Long (Dem-La.), said yesterday.

Long's statement came as the White House announced that the President hopes before Christmas to supply Congress with three more packets of information designed to defend his name against charges of scandal.

Long, who is vice chairman of the committee and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the Joint Committee will meet tomorrow with its staff to decide on the course of its investigation.

"It probably will take a month or more for our staff to determine the facts," Long said. "It has not been decided yet whether to hold hearings."

Declaring that the committee did not want to keep anything confidential, Long said that "when we have the facts in hand, we will make them available to the American public."

In making his tax returns public last weekend, Mr. Nixon said he was asking the Joint Committee to look into the question of his claimed deduction of \$576,000 for the gift of his vice

presidential papers and the nonpayment of a capital gains tax on the sale of property adjoining his San Clemente home.

Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.), chairman of the Joint Committee and of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the committee has no choice but to accede to the President's request.

"If any individual taxpayer asks us to look into his return, we will," Mills said.

At the White House, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon wants to present Congress and the public with reports on the ITT case, the milk fund and the plumbers operation before members go home for the Christmas holidays.

The President has scheduled a meeting today on the 1974 campaign with Vice President Gerald Ford, GOP National Chairman George Bush, Senator Bill Brock (Tenn.) and Representative Robert H. Michel (Ill.), chairmen, respectively, of the Senate and House Republican Campaign Committees.

The President's release of his tax returns brought mixed comments on Capitol Hill.

Senate whip Robert P. Griffin (Rep-Mich.) said he hoped the nation would credit the President with an "unprecedented step" in disclosing his financial transac-

tions and not engage in "nit-picking."

But Representative Charles Vanik (Rep-Ohio), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said "there is something awfully wrong with a tax system that lets anyone making \$200,000 a year or more pay a tax rate of 4 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The President's case presents the best evidence yet of the need for long overdue tax reform."

Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.) said: "It is my belief that what he (the President) has done is legal, but it still raises questions of appearances."

In the House, responding to the report Mr. Nixon paid no state income taxes, Speaker Carl Albert (Dem-Okla.) said he paid \$375 per quarter in Oklahoma and Democratic Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill said he paid \$2000 a year in Massachusetts.

The White House has insisted that its voluminous report on the President's finances showed that he did nothing illegal.

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