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Caplin for Probe of Nixon Taxes

Washington

Mortimer M. Caplin, who ran the Internal Revenue Service under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, said yesterday that President Nixon's tax returns warrant further special investigation.

Caplin, IRS commissioner between 1961 and 1964, gave his views on the President's taxes in an interview with the Washington Post.

He said if he were still in charge of the IRS, "I'd obviously be concerned" and consider it "a special challenge" when Mr. Nixon's tax returns were thrown out by the computer because the figures showed high income and very low taxes.

It would "spark an audit" for a normal taxpayer, Caplin said.

Commenting on the letter the IRS sent Mr. Nixon, saying his returns were correct after an examination reported to have lasted one week, Caplin said:

"... I think that perhaps this examination was handled with kid gloves and should have called for a more detailed examination. It seems to me that the letter sent was routine, almost a form letter. But I don't know how far they went.

"I think the so-called charitable contribution of Nixon papers in 1969 would be a red flag immediately. The item is so large... it would call for a total examination."

Mr. Nixon has taken tax



MORTIMER CAPLIN
Ex-IRS chief

deductions of \$482,019 on the gift of his vice presidential papers to the national archives in 1969 and may claim additional deductions of \$93,911 for a total of \$576,099.

"My own view, based on the documents I've seen, would lead me to believe that an effective, unconditional gift was not made, for tax purposes by July 25, 1969," when such tax reducing grants were outlawed, Caplin said.

"Of extreme importance is the fact that there is no evidence of acceptance by July 25 through the archives or any other agency... We have a deed prepared by the lawyers and not signed by Mr. Nixon, kept in the lawyers' office, and no delivery until after the July 25 cutoff date. And even then we have no evidence of any acceptance by the government... in my own view, the deed is a nullity from a legal standpoint."

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