

TAX TRIAL STARTS FOR NIXON DOCTOR

Five Counts Charge Riland
With \$39,000 Evasion

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

Dr. W. Kenneth Riland, osteopathic physician to President Nixon, former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, went on trial in Federal Court here yesterday on income tax evasion charges.

By the end of the day, a jury of six men and six women had been chosen to try the 61-year-old physician on a five-count indictment. He is accused of having evaded \$39,000 in taxes by not reporting \$82,000 in patient fees from 1966 through 1970. He could be sentenced to up to five years in jail and be fined \$10,000 on each count if found guilty.

Included in the unreported income, according to the charges, was \$4,516 he had received from the Government for having treated President Nixon and \$67,172 from Mr. Rockefeller.

Dr. Riland had long provided President Nixon, Secretary of State Kissinger and Mr. Rockefeller with muscle-relaxing rubs. He accompanied the President on his trips to the Soviet Union and China in 1972 and was with Mr. Kissinger in Paris during some of the Vietnam peace talks.

Judge Poses Question

When the jury-picking began, Judge Charles E. Stewart Jr. asked the prospective jurors whether they or their relatives personally knew Mr. Nixon, Mr. Rockefeller or his two brothers,

Laurance or David; Mr. Kissinger; former Attorney General John N. Mitchell; Chief Justice Warren E. Burger; John W. Dean 3d, John D. Ehrlichman and other prominent persons. Judge Stewart did not say why he was seeking this information.

Dr. Riland, who lives at 2 Washington Square Village at 71 Broadway is chief physician to the United States Steel Corporation. A florid-faced man with gray hair, he sat impassive while the jury was being selected. 10TH & 73

Dr. Riland was indicted last April, (and had been scheduled to go on trial in September. Boris Kostelanetz, his lawyer obtained a postponement of the case because of publicity surrounding the Senate Watergate hearings.

The trial also was delayed because of a missing White House tape of a 17-minute conversation between Mr. Nixon and Dr. Riland that took place in May, 1971, in the President's Oval Office. The White House first denied that a tape of the conversation had been made, but later said that the recording apparatus in the room had been operational at the time. However, White House spokesmen refused to confirm that the tape still existed.

Assistant United States Attorney James Schreiber is scheduled to make the opening statement for the prosecution when the trial resumes at 10 A.M. today.

See also

6 Mar 74, NYT
11 May 74, NYT