

Nixon Tax Inquiry

On Ex-Presidents

Washington

President Nixon suggested in June, 1969, that members of his staff be given access to the tax returns of former presidents so he could learn what tax deductions his predecessors had taken, according to an internal White House memorandum now in the hands of congressional investigators.

A White House spokesman said Mr. Nixon had not seen any returns of past presidents, but the spokesman added that he had "no idea" whether any presidential assistants had seen such returns.

Under Section 7213 of the Internal Revenue Code, it

probably would have been illegal for anyone in the Internal Revenue Service to make available to Mr. Nixon or his staff the returns of former presidents.

That section prohibits disclosure of information from any tax return for other than specified, authorized purposes.

The memorandum disclosing Mr. Nixon's interest in his predecessors' tax deductions was dated June 16, 1969, and written by John D. Ehrlichman, then counsel to the President. It was addressed to Edward L. Morgan, then Ehrlichman's deputy.

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