

Kalmbach Tells of A Nixon Tax Call

Washington

President Nixon, in a post-midnight telephone call on March 7, assured Herbert W. Kalmbach that he understood Kalmbach and his law partner, Frank DeMarco Jr., were not responsible for Mr. Nixon's tax troubles, the Los Angeles Times learned yesterday.

The call, which Kalmbach has recounted to Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office, could be important if Jaworski's investigation of the preparation of Mr. Nixon's 1969 income tax return results in fraud charges.

DeMarco and Mr. Nixon's Los Angeles tax accountant, Arthur Blech, are understood to be under investigation for their part in preparing the President's 1969 return.

In that return Mr. Nixon claimed the first portion of

a \$576,000 tax deduction for the gift of his pre-presidential papers to the National Archives, a deduction that has since been invalidated.

According to Kalmbach's account, he received the phone call in his room at the Madison Hotel here at 1:45 a.m. ten days after he had pleaded guilty to unrelated federal campaign law violations.

Mr. Nixon was said to have dismissed the questions over his taxes as a "crock of ---" and to have told Kalmbach that he knew the information used in preparation of the return was supplied by others at the White House.

The president was said to have told Kalmbach that he would ask Kalmbach and DeMarco to work on his tax returns again in 1975, after the furor over the papers deduction had subsided.

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