

Probers Hear Evidence On Nixon Aides and IRS

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee reportedly heard extensive evidence yesterday of efforts by high-level White House officials to use the Internal Revenue Service for President Nixon's political benefit.

Committee members said that in most instances the IRS refused to cooperate with White House aides.

And, while the members said that there was no evidence showing that President Nixon ordered manipulation of the IRS, they said that they received documents and testimony indicating that Mr. Nixon was aware of what his assistants were doing.

At the close of the day, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.), the committee chairman, remarked that the questions raised went "to the heart of whether there have been se-

rious abuses of power by the President or members of his official family."

Among the matters that were considered in the closed session were the following:

- Evidence that the IRS acting under pressure from White House aides, instituted an audit of the tax returns of Lawrence F. O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, in 1972

- Efforts by presidential assistants to place two political aides, John W. Caulfield and C. Gordon Liddy, in high-level positions in the IRS.

- The compilation of a list of more than 600 alleged enemies of the Nixon administration, allegedly so that retribution could be taken against them after the President's re-election.

- The question of whether special steps were taken to

obtain favorable treatment from the IRS for the President's political supporters.

In an effort to secure more evidence of the President's participation in these activities, the panel has sought the tape of an additional 17 minutes of conversation on Sept. 15, 1972, that Mr. Nixon had with John W. Dean III, his former counsel, and H. R. Haldeman, his former chief of staff.

The White House thus far has declined to supply the committee with the tape of that part of the conversation.

New York Times

National Debt

Washington

The Senate Finance Committee yesterday approved a \$24.3 billion increase in the national debt ceiling.

United Press