

White House Data On a Reporter

Washington

The White House obtained confidential data from the income tax returns of Washington reporter James R. Polk, the Washington Star-News said yesterday.

The newspaper said the incident occurred in 1972 when Polk wrote an article disclosing the secret fundraising role of presidential lawyer Herbert W. Kalmbach.

At that time Polk was a free lance reporter writing for the Star-News. He has since joined the staff of the newspaper.

The reporter said he first learned of the 1972 incident

after being contacted by a House Judiciary Committee investigator last week.

The IRS said it would have no comment.

The report on Polk's personal finances, along with a memo sent to White House officials by then counsel John W. Dean III, was uncovered as part of the impeachment inquiry by the House Judiciary Committee.

Polk, 36, received the 1974 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for his investigative stories on Kalmbach and for his disclosure of a secret donation from financier Robert L. Vesco.

Associated Press