

A Report On IRS Snoop Unit

Washington

The IRS created a unit to monitor militant groups in 1969 largely because of pressure from the White House and a Senate committee, a congressional report said yesterday.

But the unit — the Special Service Staff — had little effect on black militant or anti-war groups and apparently broke no laws, according to a staff report of Congress' joint tax committee.

The report left the impression the Internal Revenue Service created the SSS mainly as a bureaucratic device to satisfy White House staff members and congressional investigators.

The SSS was established in August, 1969, and disbanded four years later by a new IRS commissioner, Donald C. Alexander, who considered its activities improper.

The report said White House staffer Tom Charles Huston — identified by Watergate investigators as a main architect of Nixon administration domestic intelligence efforts — pressured IRS to do something about tax-exempt left-wing organizations.

The SSS eventually compiled files on 8585 individuals and 2873 organizations.

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