

Nixon Order Revoked

Farmers' Tax Returns Retain Confidentiality

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Associated Press

President Nixon yesterday revoked permission for the Agriculture Department to inspect income tax returns of farmers as part of its statistics-gathering operations.

Mr. Nixon had granted such authority, a subject of controversy in the farm belt, in January, 1973.

In announcing the revocation, White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the department never actually got around to looking at the tax returns of any farmers.

The White House spokesman said Mr. Nixon revoked tax-inspection permission on the recommendation of Vice President Gerald R. Ford. The President had instructed Ford to look into the matter at the initial meeting last month of the Domestic Council's new Committee on Privacy.

Warren reported that the committee is looking into other possible areas where departments or agencies might have inspection authority that would conflict with the demands of individual privacy.