

# Nixon Counsel Hints Tax Data Release

By JOHN HERBERS

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 — President Nixon's lawyers have indicated their willingness to permit the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue to examine the President's \$570,000 tax deduction for his Vice-Presidential papers to determine if it is legal and proper.

Their willingness was conveyed to Republican leaders in Congress last night in a White House meeting at which the officials were given an advance look at the material the President is planning to release later this week on his personal finances.

Senator John G. Tower of the Senate Republican Policy Committee today, said that the Senators and Representatives present last night were satisfied by the material to be released but that they had told the lawyers that the press and the public would not be unless Mr. Nixon makes public at the same time his full tax returns.

Whether to release the full returns has been a point of debate in the White House, and so far the President's spokesmen have not said he would make them public, along with the figures and audits being prepared.

## Packets of Material

Attending the meeting were seven members of Congress, the Republican national chairman, George Bush, and several of the President's lawyers and assistants. Mr. Nixon was there only about 10 minutes to outline the agenda, and then left. The others stayed for two hours.

Each of the visiting Republicans was given a packet of draft material that will form

the basis for what the President has said he will make public later this week to end criticism of his financial and property deals. Included were cash flow statements, showing transactions since 1969, notations of certificates of deposits, charts, audits and other materials.

Although they were required to leave the material in the White House, some recalled that the President's net worth now stands at a little less than \$1-million, triple the amount that he had when he took office in January of 1969, according to the documents.

The material, the Republican Congressmen said, confirmed reports that the President paid less than \$6,000 in income taxes for the last three years even though he had a salary during that period of \$600,000.

## Legality Questioned

"Everybody agrees," said Senator Tower "that it [the law] doesn't look very good and it probably doesn't go down very good with John Q. Citizen." But he pointed out that the President's largest deduction was for Vice-Presidential papers he had donated to the Smithsonian Institution, adding that previous Presidents had claimed such deductions.

"Tax returns will show that his financial affairs were very much in order," Senator Tower said.

However, the legality of the Nixon deduction has been widely questioned.

The Senators and Representatives at the meeting urged the Nixon lawyers to make his tax returns public and turn all information over to the Joint Internal Revenue Taxation Committee and pledge to abide

by any decision the committee would make, according to Senator Tower.

"There was a climate of acceptance" by the lawyers, Senator Tower said, and others present got a stronger impression that the lawyers, and the President, would be willing to let the committee decide.

The lawyers were Kenneth Gemmill of Philadelphia and N. Chapman Rose of Cleveland, two highly regarded tax lawyers who are long-time friends of the President and who volunteered several weeks ago to help prepare the material on the Nixon finances.

Letting a Congressional committee decide on the legality of a tax deduction would be unprecedented. The joint committee is headed by Representative Wilbur P. Mills, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The vice chairman is Russell B. Long of Louisiana, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Of the 10 members only one, Senator Vance R. Hartke, Democrat of Indiana, has been an outspoken critic of the President.

Others attending the meeting included Senators Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Robert P. Griffin of Michigan and Norris Cotton of New Hampshire; Representatives John A. Anderson of Illinois, Leslie C. Arends of Illinois and John J. Rhodes of Arizona; and three Presidential assistants, Alexander M. Haig Jr., Ronald L. Ziegler and William C. Timmons.

## Gambler's Pocket Picked

BOMBAY (AP)—An accused gambler claimed a pickpocket took his money in the courtroom just before his bail hearing. The judge gave him the benefit of the doubt and freed him without bail.