

IRS Aide Quits; Leaked Nixon

Associated Press

An Internal Revenue Service employee, tracked down by investigators as the individual who leaked information about President Nixon's income tax returns to a newspaper, quit his job under a threat of being fired, IRS officials say.

The former employee, whom the officials refused to identify, also faced possible criminal charges for his action, but

the Justice Department, after studying the case, decided against prosecution, spokesmen said.

Meanwhile, an IRS investigator who, according to government sources, was credited with cracking the case, received an award last month for "noteworthy contributions to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of the Treasury."

Spokesmen for the IRS refused to say whether the award to the agent, William J. Schaefer, was in fact connected with the Nixon tax returns.

According to sources, investigators solved the mystery by tracing photocopies of the Nixon tax records to the machine which produced them at the IRS national computer center in Martinsburg, W. Va.

Tax Data

The IRS said disclosure of information about individual tax returns is illegal and offenses are routinely investigated.

Publication of details of Nixon's tax returns by the Providence Journal-Bulletin last Oct. 3 was a key development in the controversy over the President's income taxes.

The newspaper, quoting what it said were documents

provided by government sources, reported that Nixon had paid a total of \$1,670 in federal income taxes in 1970 and 1971 and received refunds totalling \$131,503 for the two years.

The White House said originally that the IRS audited Nixon's tax returns for those two years and ordered no change.