

IRS Chief Asks New Safeguards

Washington

Internal Revenue Commissioner Donald C. Alexander yesterday called for new laws to restrict White House access to income tax returns and audits.

Alexander also said that "no political pressure" has ever been exerted on him by the White House to obtain personal income tax information and that he would "disobey" any such order.

Asked during a Senate administrative practice subcommittee hearing what he would do if the Internal Revenue Service was asked by the White House to audit the tax returns of certain persons, Alexander said he would refuse, report the matter to the secretary of

the treasury, and consider "reporting the matter to the Justice Department."

Alexander, who has been IRS commissioner for 14 months, said that the White House has under present law access to tax information and estimated that the IRS receives about a thousand requests a year from the White House for various tax checks.

The IRS chief said he has introduced a new ruling requiring that all White House requests for tax information on individuals be submitted in writing.

New regulations are required, he said, and Congress should write them into the laws governing the IRS.

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