

# IRS Also Probed Names in CIA List

Washington

Thousands of U.S. citizens whose names wound up in the files of the Central Intelligence Agency as radicals and anti-war protesters also were investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, a Senate subcommittee has found.

The tax investigations, which were launched by a political intelligence arm of the IRS, were largely unproductive of new revenue.

Those investigated were among 10,000 Americans whose names were furnished to the CIA by the Justice Department's internal security division.

Although the CIA recently acknowledged receiving such a list, it was not previously known that many of the same persons were also subjected to tax investigations. This fact, among others, is revealed in IRS documents compiled by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights.

Describing the work of the once-secret IRS "special services staff" more explicitly than ever before, the documents show that the unit received computerized lists of alleged "radicals" from the Justice Department in 1969 and 1971.

In May, 1972, the department furnished substantially the same names to the CIA.

After retaining the index for four years, the CIA destroyed it last March when it decided it would no longer gather intelligence on the

domestic activities of U.S. dissidents, according to CIA Director William E. Colby.

Although the existence of the IRS "special services staff" — known as the SSS — has revealed 18 months ago, the newly compiled records show for the first time, the Los Angeles Times has learned, how a coordinated, government-wide effort was undertaken against anti-war activists and protest groups.

Soon after the unit was organized in mid-1969, the seriousness with which dissident groups were viewed as reflected in a memo from Donald O. Virdin, an IRS section chief.

"Some of these organizations," he wrote, "may be a threat to the security of the United States . . . One of our principal functions will be to determine the sources of their funds, the names of the contributors, whether the contributions given to the organizations have been deducted as charitable contributions . . ."

Although some IRS officials were genuinely concerned about protest organizations that were urging Americans to withhold tax payments as a means of opposing the Vietnam war, the SSS program ranged far beyond that.

Memos show that from an original 77 organizations that were studied, the IRS special unit expanded its surveillance to embrace 2873 groups and 8585 individuals.

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