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# Probe Of IRS's Alexander Starts

IRS, From A1

Treasury Department general counsel Richard R. Albrecht, the fifth-ranking department official, is in charge of the investigation. Government sources said yesterday that Albrecht traveled out of town in the last week to personally conduct interviews in the matter.

According to two reliable government sources, Albrecht so far has found two witnesses who confirm the major allegations in a Washington Post story of Oct. 19 about Alexander's actions to block the Montoya audits.

That story said that Alexander, on at least five occasions, stopped the Montoya audits, which had been strongly recommended by other IRS officials and which were called for by normal IRS procedures.

There is no evidence that Montoya sought or was aware of the special treatment he allegedly received.

Reliable sources said that five former or present IRS

auditors and investigators from mid-1973 to the present were told to begin initial inquiries into Montoya's taxes but then were called off the project.

They were Robert French, Philip C. Reynolds, James W. Lear, Joel La Noux and William J. McAulay. All were assigned to the IRS district in New Mexico.

From 1973 to the middle of this year IRS officials in New Mexico and the former Southwest regional commissioner, Albert W. Brisbin, wanted to audit Montoya's returns, according to the sources.

Brisbin's successor, Walter Coppinger, has since said that there is no reason to audit Montoya's returns from 1966-1972.

Since 1950, the last time Montoya's tax return was audited, he has become a multimillionaire, reliable sources said.

Montoya has boasted to friends that he is perhaps the richest member of the U.S. Senate.