

Testimony on the IRS

11,000 Illegal Tax Probes

Washington

Donald C. Alexander, the commissioner of internal revenue, said yesterday he thought it neither "necessary" nor "desirable" for the Internal Revenue Service to inform 11,000 individuals and organizations that tax examiners had improperly singled them out for special attention because of their ideologies.

Alexander told a House subcommittee on government information and individual rights that the 11,000 files, compiled between 1969 and 1973 by the Special Services Staff of the IRS, were "outdated and useless" and in his opinion ought to provide fuel for the "biggest bonfire in Washington."

But the commissioner said he would agree to a request by Representative Bella S. Abzug (Dem.-N.Y.), the subcommittee chairman, to keep the files intact until Congress acted on her bill requiring the IRS and other federal agencies to notify victims of illegal surveillance or other improprieties directed against them.

Alexander, who abolished the Special Services Staff shortly after he became commissioner in 1973, testified as the staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence released a report that termed the secret tax unit "the principal in-



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DONALD C. ALEXANDER
He called for a bonfire

stance of the use of the IRS for a fundamentally improper non-tax purpose."

The selective enforcement of the tax laws against political dissidents, which the committee staff said was begun under President John F. Kennedy but reached its peak during the administration of Richard M. Nixon, was but one element in what the report termed a "serious and illegal abuse of IRS investigative powers" that had led

"to a compromise of the privacy and integrity of the tax return."

The Senate report said that targets of the IRS Special Services Staff were selected mostly "because of their political activism, rather than because specific facts indicated tax violations were present."

Other abuses reported by the Senate staff included the IRS's practice of providing the FBI and the CIA with "virtually unrestricted access" to tax information, including individual returns.

In some cases, the report said, the FBI used the information for purposes that were clearly illegal.

The intelligence committee staff also criticized the IRS's information retrieval system as "a glut of largely useless information" about nearly 500,000 Americans.

New York Times

Spanish King's Visit

Madrid

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will visit the coal-mining region of Asturias on May 18 and 19 in their third visit to a Spanish region since Juan Carlos ascended to the throne six months ago, reliable sources said yesterday.

Associated Press