

# IRS to Tell Victims Of Its Political Spying

Washington

The Internal Revenue Service has agreed to notify more than 700 taxpayers that they were among those singled out during the Nixon administration for special attention because of their political beliefs.

In a letter delivered Monday to Representative Bella Abzug (Dem-N.Y.), IRS Commissioner Donald Alexander said that the notifications would be sent to some 775 individuals whose cases the IRS' defunct Special Service Staff had referred to field offices for some sort of action.

Abzug, who heads a House government operations subcommittee on government information and individual rights, replied in a letter to Alexander that although she was "pleased that the IRS will institute this limited notification program," she would continue to press for notification of all 11,000 taxpayers and groups on whom the Special Service Staff maintained files.

In his letter, Alexander noted that the notifications were being sent pursuant to a request from the Abzug subcommittee, and he said that persons notified would be able, with some exceptions, to obtain the information in their files for the asking. The selective enforcement of federal tax laws, which dates at least back to the Kennedy administration, reached its peak under President Nixon, when the Special Service Staff was set up.

That unit, which from 1969 to 1973 collected information from other federal agencies not only about tax resisters but on various anti-administration groups, including several opposed to the Vietnam war, was described by a Senate committee in a recent report as "the principal instance of the use of the IRS for a fundamentally improper non-tax purpose."

Abzug has sponsored a pending bill that would require that individuals subjected to improper government intelligence activities be notified that files relating to them are in existence.

Besides the IRS, the only other federal intelligence agency that has agreed to such notifications is the FBI, which is advising several hundred targets of its counter-intelligence operations of actions taken against them.

The Central Intelligence Agency, which in the late 1960s and early 1970s collected about 10,000 files on domestic anti-war groups and their members, has declined Abzug's request to provide similar notification, a subcommittee aide said yesterday.

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