

Ex-Nixon Aide

'Sought IRS File'

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

John J. Caulfield, a former White House aide whose name figured prominently in yesterday's Senate Watergate testimony, tried three years ago to obtain Internal Revenue Service intelligence for the White House about one of President Nixon's closest friends, according to sources acquainted with the matter.

The sources said Caulfield tried unsuccessfully to get a special IRS agent to report to John D. Ehrlichman, who then was the President's counsel, intelligence gathered by the agency about C. Arnholt Smith, whose friendship and financial support of Mr. Nixon span nearly three decades.

These sources did not explain why Caulfield was interested in the information about Smith, or what he planned to do with the data if he obtained it.

IRS sources said that what Caulfield was reported to have been asking the agent to do was a violation of federal law and agency regulations governing the disclosure of Internal Revenue information.

TESTIMONY

James W. McCord Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator, swore before the Senate Watergate committee yesterday that it was Caulfield who "conveyed" to

him what he believed was White House pressure to remain silent in exchange for executive clemency and financial aid.

The sources who told of the alleged effort by Caulfield to obtain the IRS information on Smith for the White House gave the following account:

In the spring of 1970, Caulfield, then an assistant to Ehrlichman, tried to persuade the IRS agent to visit the White House secretly and discuss his agency's investigation of Smith. The agent was also asked to report on John Alessio, Smith's closest business associate who later went to prison for federal income tax evasion.

Smith is an important Republican fund-raiser who

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heads a large business empire.

CONVERSATION

In his only direct conversation with the IRS agent, via long-distance telephone, Caulfield asked about Alessio and Smith, who both live in San Diego, sources said.

When the agent outlined the inquiries and also told of problems encountered at the U.S. attorney's office in connection with the Smith inquiry, Caulfield requested that the agent send him a memorandum detailing the information.

Caulfield requested that there be nothing in the memorandum to indicate where the document originated or for whom it was prepared, the sources said.

The agent dictated the memorandum and it was sent to Caulfield at his White House office. No copies of the document were made and the secretary who prepared it destroyed her notes, sources said.

INTERMEDIARY

A short time later, Caulfield got in touch with the agent through a federal law enforcement officer who works in southern California. The intermediary is not an IRS agent.

The officer told the IRS agent that Caulfield wanted him to make a trip to Washington to talk to Ehrlichman about the contents of the memorandum.

The intermediary said the White House did not want anyone in IRS to know of the trip. The agent, who was stationed in San Diego, was asked either to take some annual leave or to make the trip over a weekend to insure secrecy.

The intermediary told him his expenses would be taken care of. But the agent balked.

Caulfield spent 16 years on the New York City Police force, ten of them on the special unit that investigates subversives and also protects visiting dignitaries.

According to a biography he prepared for the Treasury Department, Caulfield took a leave of absence dur-



AP Wirephoto

JOHN J. CAULFIELD
Intelligence report

ing the 1968 presidential campaign "at the request of Richard Nixon" and served Mr. Nixon as an "adviser-consultant" on security arrangements.

He returned to the police department briefly after the campaign, but left again on "indefinite leave" in April 1969 to work on the White House staff.

In his request for leave, according to New York Police records, Caulfield said he would "perform law enforcement liaison within the executive branch of the U.S. government at the request of the attorney general (then John N. Mitchell)."

But at the White House, Caulfield worked first as an aide to John D. Ehrlichman, who was then presidential counsel. He later worked for John W. Dean III, who followed Ehrlichman in that job.

Caulfield went to the Committee for re-election of the President in March 1972 as an "aide-consultant," working under Jeb Magruder, then the committee's chief of staff, according to his Treasury Department biography.

He moved to the Treasury Department a month later, working first as a consultant and special assistant to Martin Pollner, then the department's director of law enforcement.