

Team of Trusted Aides Compiled Report on Nixon's Finances

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—For the last three and a half weeks, two prominent tax lawyers, four White House aides and an accountant have been "sealed" in a conference room of the Executive Office Building sifting through mountains of the President's financial records.

Arthur Blech, the accountant who has prepared the President's income tax statements for the last five years, says he never met the President. But the six other men who masterminded the project of detailing the President's personal finances are trusted friends of the President.

H. Chapman Rose, a 66-year-old lawyer from Cleveland, has been a trouble-shooter for the President since he arrived at the White House. Repeatedly Mr. Rose flew to Washington to unsnarl controversies touching on such Administration officials as Maurice H. Stans, the

former Secretary of Commerce, and Peter Flanigan, a Presidential aide.

"Send for Chappy," was an oft-repeated cry at the White House when problems began to mount.

At Easter, Mr. Rose was summoned to counsel the President at Key Biscayne on what to do about the Watergate scandal. His advice was sought intermittently until July, when the President faced fresh criticism involving his property.

At that time Kenneth W. Gemmill, a distinguished tax lawyer from Philadelphia, was invited to join Mr. Rose as an unpaid consultant to advise the President on his personal finances.

The two lawyers have known the President at least since the early days of the Eisenhower Administration, when they served in the Treasury Department. Mr. Rose was assistant secretary and undersecretary

and Mr. Gemmill was chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service and assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. Rose is now with the law firm of Jones, Day, Cockley & Reavis in Cleveland, and the 63-year-old Mr. Gemmill is with Decher, Price & Rhoads in Philadelphia.

Both men are "big shots" in the Republican party, as a mutual friend puts it. Mr. Gemmill has been a leader on the Pennsylvania State Finance Committee, and at one time headed the committee.

Donation to Campaign
Mr. Rose, who donated more than \$10,000 to the President's last campaign, also travels in high Republican circles in Ohio, where his counsel is continually sought.

Mr. Rose's son, Jonathan C. Rose, is also working for the President as general counsel on

International Economic Policy. In 1971 the younger Rose came to public attention when it was disclosed that he was doing nonmilitary work — his title then was special assistant to the President — in the White House while on active military duty.

While his colleagues insist that Mr. Rose is a leading tax lawyer, Mr. Rose contends that his label should be corporate lawyer.

Mr. Gemmill, who has written on tax law and has a chair at the University of Pennsylvania Law School named for him, was a principal author of the Tax Act of 1954, which was aimed largely at reducing the taxes of business and investors.

In contrast with his fellow team members working on the President's finances, the 50-year-old Arthur Blech is a relatively unknown certified public accountant in Los Angeles.

The President's personal lawyer, Herbert Kalmbach, often turned to Mr. Blech for accounting work, and did so again in 1969, to compute Mr. Nixon's taxes. Mr. Blech's firm, bearing his name, has four other partners.

The records kept by the President's previous tax accountants, Vincent Andrews, have also been culled by the team. Mr. Andrews headed a 20-man firm, Vincent Andrews, Inc., in New York before his death in 1969. He met Mr. Nixon in 1963 and worked on his income tax statements until his death.

The four aides chosen by the President to work on this project were his press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, his special counsel, Richard A. Moore, and two speech writers, David Gergen and Patrick J. Buchanan.

It was at the suggestion of Mr. Gemmill and Mr. Rose that the President in July, employed the country's largest accounting firms, to audit his finances. R. Kirk Batzer, a 57-year-old partner in the firm, headed the audit team, which numbered 10 of 12 accountants with Coopers & Lybrand.

Mr. Batzer has termed published reports concerning the firm's past troubles "outrageous" and "unfair."

Three former associates of the firm were convicted of distributing false financial statements and of mail fraud growing out of a false 1962 financial statement of the Continental Vending Machine Corporation. On Dec. 20, 1972, President Nixon gave all three unconditional pardons.

"The pardoning of these gentlemen did not have anything to do with our accepting the engagement," Mr. Batzer said.