

ERVIN, WEICKER REVEAL TAX DATA

Each Paid Roughly \$15,000
in '72, More Than Nixon

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (UPI) —At the prodding of the White House, Senators Sam Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, and Lowell P. Weicker, Republican of Connecticut, made public their 1972 income tax returns today.

Both said they paid more than triple the Federal taxes President Nixon paid that year.

"Quite frankly, it makes the President's tax return look all the more ridiculous," Mr. Weicker said after he announced that he earned \$67,939 and paid \$14,350 in Federal taxes last year.

Mr. Ervin said he paid \$15,483.55 in Federal taxes in 1972 on an adjusted gross income of \$63,440.

Mr. Nixon reported Saturday that he paid \$4,298 in Federal taxes in 1972 on an adjusted gross income of \$280,000.

Speaking on the Senate floor, Senators Ervin and Weicker said they were reacting to a United Press International dispatch yesterday quoting informed sources as saying that Mr. Nixon's advisers were urging him "to make a public statement insisting that his political critics make their income tax returns public and that they provide an audit showing their personal cash flow."

Said Mr. Ervin: "I don't know who this unidentified person is who tried to do a little character assassination, but if he identifies himself I'll let him come down to North Carolina and memorize my tax returns for the last 50 years."

Only a few Senators were on the floor when Mr. Ervin and Mr. Weicker made their speeches, each waving copies of their 1040 forms before handing them to a page for publication in the Congressional Record.

Meanwhile, three liberal Democrats, Senators Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Birch Bayh of Indiana and Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, announced that they would try to amend the tax law that permitted Mr. Nixon to pay only \$793 on an income of more than \$260,000 in 1970.

They said that if a tax bill is called up before the Senate this year they would seek to

amend it to increase the "minimum tax." This is a device intended to make individuals with large incomes who take advantage of certain tax provisions pay at least some tax.

An earlier attempt by Mr. Kennedy to toughen the minimum tax failed by votes of 49 to 47 in June and 46 to 37 in November.

The attempt by someone in the White House without "enough courage to identify himself," is not a red herring, Senator Ervin said, but "a putrified minnow."

The U.P.I. dispatch yesterday said that Mr. Nixon might soon challenge his critics in Congress to disclose their personal financial records fully to show "they aren't living in glass houses while they throw their rocks" at the President.

The White House sources responsible for the dispatch said Mr. Nixon was being urged to strike back by some aides in his Administration as well as by people outside Washington whose political judgment he respects.