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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The President's Taxes

It seems to me that in all fairness to President Nixon, legislation should be enacted immediately requiring that the income tax returns of all federal office holders be made available for public scrutiny.

The public has every right to know the sources and the amounts of income not only of their President, but every congressman, senator and judge on the federal payroll. Such disclosure will not only give a check on the letter-of-the-law honesty of the officials, but an indication of their ethical standards.

AMES W. WILLIAMS.

Alexandria.

This reader's pride at being part of the Great American System is reinforced every day when I read about Mr. Nixon's eagerness to pay his fair share of taxes in recent years.

I have been advised that the \$1,200 I claimed for child care in 1972 is being questioned (audited). It's clear that as a widow, holding an exorbitantly-paid clerical job, I am attempting to swindle the government. Isn't it reassuring to know that the boys at IRS are constantly on the alert for citizens like me?

PAT KLINGEMAN.

Alexandria.

After receiving a notice of additional federal, state, and county taxes due, which I paid, I along with many other taxpayers attempting to provide for his family agree with the investigation and revelation of the President's financial manipulations.

It would be interesting to note how other Presidents who were not independently wealthy at the beginning of their public service, i.e., Presidents Johnson and Eisenhower, amassed their wealth? In fact, this idiom would undoubtedly apply to most of the privileged individuals on Capitol Hill, but who in the group could afford to open Pandora's box?

G. A. GILFILLAN.

McLean.

I think it is disgraceful the way you and the rest of the media are slandering poor Mr. Nixon. Just the other day, for example, you and others were saying that in one recent year he only gave \$252 to charity.

Everyone knows that can't be true. Republican leaders like Mr. Nixon and Gov. Reagan may cut a few corners on taxes once in a while, but they only

do it so they can give more to their favorite private charities. That's what the Republican Party stands for: helping the poor and needy through voluntary gifts to private charities. That's why Vice President Ford voted against most welfare bills while he was in Congress. He wanted people to be able to give more through voluntary contributions.

So please go back and check your sources. Someone is trying to damage Mr. Nixon's reputation and destroy the credibility not only of the President but of all our generous and compassionate Republicans in Congress. Find out who it was that put out that slanderous story that Mr. Nixon gives almost nothing to charity (\$252 indeed!) and when you find the ultimate source of that story we'll all know who it is that is behind the whole Watergate story.

GERHARD LENSKE JR.

Chapel Hill, N.C.

San Clemente

The Washington Post and other journals appear to have overlooked a headline story of great interest to all homeowners. For, if I correctly interpret reports of the President's financial arrangements, he has been secretly testing a revolutionary housing plan for the United States.

This Nixon Housing Plan will apparently work like this: homeowners immediately donate their homes to the federal government, subject to lifetime tenancy. This gives each donor a major tax benefit, and the government takes over basic management costs (perhaps even including insurance) and installs fancy equipment the original owner could never have afforded on his own. Furthermore, the residents of each home can now gain tax benefits from depreciation of their furniture—with the size of the benefit limited only by individual taste and pocketbook.

Think of it! Free housing—plus subsidized living expenses—to all able to purchase a home in the first place.

Now, if we can just come up with something for those less fortunate . . .

ROBERT T. DENNIS.

Fairfax.

I know one shouldn't look a gift house in the mouth but frankly this is one taxpayer who does not want San Clemente (or any other presidential estate) as a gift when I have paid more income tax over the past four years than the donor.

LOIS R. SMITH.

Arlington.