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I.R.S. Says Man Who Gave Out Nixon Tax Data Quit Under Fire

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 — An Internal Revenue Service employe, identified by investigators as the person who gave information about President Nixon's income tax returns to a newspaper, quit his job under a threat of being dismissed, according to service officials.

The former employe, whom the officials refused to identify, also faced the possibility of criminal charges for his action, but the Justice Department, after studying the case, decided against prosecution, the spokesmen said.

An Internal Revenue Service investigator, who according to Government sources cracked the case, received an award last month for "noteworthy contributions to the effective-

ness and efficiency of the Department of the Treasury."

Spokesmen for the service refused to say whether the award to the agent, William J. Schaefer, was in fact connected with the Nixon case.

According to other sources, investigators tracked photocopies of the Nixon tax re-

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ords to the machine that produced them at the I.R.S. national computer center in Martinsburg, W. Va.

The service said disclosure of information about individual tax returns was illegal and that offenses were routinely investigated.

Publication of details of Mr. Nixon's tax returns by the Providence Journal-Bulletin last Oct. 3 was a key development in the controversy over the President's income taxes.

The newspapers, quoting what they said were documents provided by Government sources, reported that Mr. Nixon had paid a total of \$1,670 in Federal income taxes in 1970 and 1971 and received refunds totaling \$131,503 for the two years.

On Dec. 8, the White House released Mr. Nixon's tax data,

confirming the newspaper's report that he paid \$792.81 in 1970 and \$878.03 in 1971.

A source familiar with the case said that the Internal Revenue Service employe who saw Mr. Nixon's records was disturbed by what he found that he decided to make the details of the tax returns public in defiance of service regulations.