

'Nixon Papers' Figure Resigns

Washington

The former White House aide who signed President Nixon's deed for the controversial contribution of his vice presidential papers to the national archives in 1969 resigned from his high Treasury job yesterday.

Edward L. Morgan, who gave up his post as assistant secretary of the Treasury, said in a telephone interview his resignation in part resulted from the controversy on whether the deed was properly drawn up and actually signed on the date it was supposed to have been signed.

"It's not directly related, but I can't say it's totally unrelated," he said. "Of course I feel badly about it: it's something I'm clearly involved in, and I'm giving the President another problem."

Asked what problem he might be giving the President, Morgan said, "if he is going to have to pay considerable tax, it's a problem."

There has been some question whether Morgan had authority to sign the deed on the presidential gift and whether he signed it before a congressionally imposed cutoff date for tax deductions for such gifts.

"Obviously I'm questioning what I did," he said. He said he knows now he did not have authority to sign the deed, but did not know at the time, when he was a deputy counsel to the President.

But Morgan declined to answer whether he signed the deed before the cutoff date, saying he didn't want to discuss that now.

The Nixon papers were valued at \$576,000 by an appraiser hired by the President. As a result of the tax deduction claimed for the donation, Mr. Nixon had a tax saving of at least \$200,000.



AP Wirephoto

EDWARD MORGAN
He signed deed

Because of the donation deduction and because of other deductions claimed by the President, Mr. Nixon paid taxes of only \$793 in 1970, \$878 in 1971 and \$4293 for 1972.

Morgan was said to have signed the deed for donating the presidential papers to the national archives on March 27, 1969, four months before the July 25 date that would end tax deductions for such deeds.

The date the deed was signed is questioned for several reasons.

Although Morgan was supposed to have signed the deed on March 27, it was not notarized until April 21 and wasn't actually delivered to the National Archives until a year later, in April, 1970.

And, although the deed contains a description of the papers included in the presidential gift, Mr. Nixon's personal tax attorney, Frank DeMarco Jr., has acknowledged that the description was not actually prepared by him until about a year after the deed itself was supposed to have been signed.

Associated Press