

NYTimes
Long Predicts that President
Will Be Asked to Pay Back Tax

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WASHINGTON, June 23 (UPI)—Senator Russel B. Long, Democrat of Louisiana, said today that President Nixon would almost certainly be asked to pay back taxes because he was not entitled to the \$576,000 deduction he claimed on the gift of his Vice-Presidential papers.

Mr. Long, chairman of the House-Senate committee that is investigating Mr. Nixon's taxes at the President's request, said that everything he had seen indicated that the deduction was improper.

But he said that the Joint Congressional Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation had reached no conclusion on whether the error was "merely technical" or fraudulent.

The deduction reduced Mr. Nixon's taxes between 1969 and 1972 by about \$235,000.

Mr. Nixon has told the committee that he will pay back taxes if it determines that he owes more than the \$78,651 he paid over the four years on a total adjusted gross income of \$1,122,166.

"The more I learn about the matter, the more it seems to me that we will ask the President to pay some back taxes," Mr. Long said.

"My best understanding is

that it looks more and more that there was a tax liability on the President's part. That's not unusual, for a taxpayer to be found owing more taxes. Fraud is unusual."

One issue in the gift of papers to the National Archives is whether the transaction was completed before July 25, 1969, General Services Administration deadline of July 25, 1969.

when a new law prohibiting such deductions took effect.

A former White House deputy counsel, Edward Morgan, who signed the deed for the papers on Mr. Nixon's behalf, resigned last Friday as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

In an interview in The Wall Street Journal today Mr. Morgan was quoted as saying that he did not now believe he had had the authority to sign the deed, "although five years ago I fervently believed I did."

The Journal said that Mr. Morgan had conceded that he might have signed backdated copies of the deed in 1970. The copies were submitted to the General Services Administration as proof that the gift was made before deadline of July 25, 1969.