

No Evidence Of Tax Fraud, Nixon Says

By John P. MacKenzie
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon said yesterday that congressional investigators have found no evidence he committed tax fraud although he may wind up owing "more taxes."

In his televised meeting with the Executives' Club of Chicago, Mr. Nixon called his disputed \$576,000 tax deduction for donation of vice presidential papers a "debatable, technical point" rather than any fraud.

The President said Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.), chairman of the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, and Sen. Wallace Bennett of Utah, its ranking Republican, were correct in saying "there's been no evidence of fraud on the part of the President."

Mr. Nixon omitted any reference to the committee's vice chairman, Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.), who, although not charging fraud, has predicted that the committee's report would hurt the President more than Watergate.

Another committee member, Rep. James A. Burke (D-Mass.), supported Mills. The Boston Globe quoted Burke as saying the committee's report, when made public in about three weeks, will be "a shocker, and there'll be nothing cheap about this." Nixon aides called Mills' prediction a "cheap shot."

Meanwhile several news services quoting sources close

Nixon's tax lawyers obtained in July, 1969. The aides have told the investigators, including Internal Revenue Service agents and committee staff, that the 1970 document was not a fake but a retyping of the missing 1969 document.

In his Chicago appearance yesterday, Mr. Nixon said the technical question was "whether a gift of three-quarters of a million dollars worth of presidential papers — which was delivered three months before the deadline — whether the paperwork on it was completed in time to qualify for the deduction."

"If it was completed in time, as I understand it, I get the deduction. If it was not completed in time I don't get the deduction; I pay the tax and the government gets to keep the papers.

"Well, under the circumstances, that's hard for me to realize, but the President, when the IRS is concerned, I am assuring you, is just another citizen and even more so. And that's perfectly proper."

Mr. Nixon never signed the deed, but former White House deputy counsel Edward L. Morgan has said he signed such a document in 1969 thinking, perhaps mistakenly, that he had authority to do so for the President.

Mr. Nixon's accountant, Arthur Blech of Los Angeles, said yesterday that a special agent of the IRS Intelligence