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NIXON TAXES STIR LITTLE COMMENT

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I.R.S. Callers Tend to Own
Woes, Ignore President's

NYTimes

Most visitors to tax offices in larger cities around the country are not commenting about President Nixon's tax problems.

That was the observation yesterday of New York Times correspondents who went to the offices in a dozen cities, listened to the conversations of people who had come to the Internal Revenue Service with their own tax problems and asked I.R.S. officials for their experience.

Not a single reference to Mr. Nixon's tax controversy was heard by a visitor to the I.R.S. district offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

In Philadelphia as in other cities I.R.S. aides recalled earlier comments. Mrs. Lillian Pelosi, a taxpayer assistance representative, said one person had "asked for Nixon's tax preparer so he could pay \$100 less," and Rudy Thompson, a blind tax examiner, said that several phone callers had asked, "Is this the Watergate tax bureau?"

In Washington, Joseph F. Harris, chief of the I.R.S. office four blocks from the White House, gave an explanation for the absence of remarks yesterday by pointing to a fact noted by most other branch chiefs: "People are preoccupied when they come here," he said.

Lonnie Eschliman, I.R.S. representative in Lincoln, Neb., offered another. "I think the presumption before was, 'The President can get away with it, but I can't,'" he said. "Now I think the presumption will be different."