

IRS Says White House Got Reports

Washington

The Internal Revenue Service in the past has furnished the White House with reports on some "sensitive" tax cases, IRS commissioner Donald Alexander said yesterday.

"Some information was furnished to the White House, but there was no continuing pattern," Alexander said in a nationally televised interview, CBS's "Face the Nation."

Alexander said he stopped the practice when he took office about nine months ago.

The commissioner denied a suggestion by Senator Lowell P. Weicker (Rep.-Conn.) that the White House used IRS files as sort of "lending library" of tax information on persons Presi-

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dent Nixon's staff listed as the administration's friends and enemies.

"But certain sensitive case reports, in our sensitive case procedure, were apparently forwarded to the White House," Alexander said.

"I think it was appropriate to do so," Alexander said in reply to a question, "But I don't do so, because I think that that practice could well be capable of misconstruction at best, and I see no reason to do so."

Alexander refused to identify the subjects of the "sensitive" by name or as being on either the "friends" or "enemies" list.

Alexander said he does inform his immediate superiors, the secretary and the deputy secretary of the Treasury "of what is happening in IRS when I think they should be so advised."

"I advise them orally, I leave nothing with them," he added. "I don't know whether the secretary of the Treasury discusses matters of this nature with the White House, but I doubt he would do so."

Alexander said that apparently his predecessors had accepted presidential tax returns at face value, but that under his stewardship, "in that respect we are breaking new ground."

He answered with "no comment" when asked whether the IRS had found any basis for an allegation of civil fraud or negligence by the President or his advisers in preparing his tax returns for the years 1969 through 1972.

Alexander said it was untrue that the President who appointed him had exerted any pressure on him. "In my only conversation with the President, in a reception line at the White House, he told me to do my job well and honestly, and that is what I am trying to do," Alexander said.

Alexander said he doubted the President would be able to claim payment of his 1969 taxes as a deduction from his 1974 income. As the statute of limitations on 1969 already had expired, the President could file a claim to recover them, but if he did not do so, he could hardly describe their payment as a gift without filing a waiver of the right to recovery, he said.

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