

White House

Turns Aside a Tax Question

Washington

The White House, citing grounds of privacy, turned aside questions yesterday as to whether a negligence penalty was included in the Internal Revenue Service's assessment for back taxes owed by President Nixon.

"It's a closed book," deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren told reporters when questions about the IRS assessment of \$432,787 against Mr. Nixon were raised at a news briefing.

"The President is going to pay the full total of the assessment . . . and that's all I'm going to say," Warren said, adding that there must be "some element of privacy maintained about the matter of the President's taxes . . ."

Associated Press