

Jury Probe

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New IRS Plea On Nixon Told

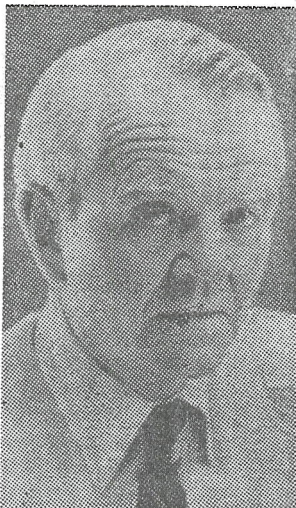
Washington

Donald C. Alexander, the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service has asked that the special Watergate prosecutor's office initiate a grand jury investigation into a possible criminal conspiracy stemming from President Nixon's claim of a \$576,000 tax deduction for his vice-presidential papers, well-placed sources said yesterday.

The sources said that Alexander discussed the tax issue privately last week with special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, and provided him with a list of former White House aides and presidential associates to be investigated.

In a meeting with reporters Tuesday, Attorney General William B. Saxbe publicly named Frank DeMarco, a California lawyer who prepared an admittedly backdated deed for the papers, as among those cited by Alexander as a potential grand jury target.

Saxbe also said that the question of possible criminal involvement on the part of Mr. Nixon is for the Congressional impeachment inquiry to decide, and not an issue before Jaworski's of-



DONALD ALEXANDER
Commissioner of the IRS

fice.

Jaworski is known to have concluded earlier this year that the grand jury that considered the Watergate coverup did not have the Constitutional authority to indict a President in office, although it was reported in March that the grand jury had determined that Mr. Nixon was involved in the Watergate coverup.

"I can't remember the head of the IRS directly asking for the convening of a grand jury," one former IRS official said.

Under the law, lawyers said, the person who signs a tax return is usually held responsible for the return.

The White House has denied any direct responsibility for the preparation of Mr. Nixon's tax returns. In a statement issued last week, shortly after it was announced that Mr. Nixon would pay the IRS claim in full, the White House noted that "any errors which may have been made in the preparation of the President's returns were made by those to whom he delegated the responsibility for preparing his returns and were made without his knowledge and without his approval."

The identity of the other potential suspects could not immediately be learned, but the report of a joint Congressional committee on Mr. Nixon's taxes, which concluded last week that the deduction was illegal, also named former White House aides John D. Ehrlichman and Edward Morgan as having been involved in the claim.

The committee's report also cited Ralph Newman, the Chicago appraiser, who valued the papers at \$576,000, as having played a key role in the preparation of the President's gift.

New York Times