

WASHINGTON — The one revelation, they say, that has hurt Richard Milhous Nixon the most is the list of his income tax deficiencies. No wonder. Look what the rest of us have been sending in every April to finance the federal government including the running of the White House in a kingly fashion.

But the one thing in that report which must be described as absurd is the effort of the Joint Congressional Committee on Internal Revenue Taxes to bill the President for taking his wife and daughters with him on Air Force One. Then and there the committee labeled themselves as a group of male chauvinists.

The very idea that the wife of any President of the United States should take on the full-time job of First Lady — which means receiving thousands of strangers, making multiple appearances on frequently dull occasions, devoting long hours to a huge correspondence, sitting through heavy programs with a polite smile, working on the authentic furnishings for the White House, planning state functions, dedicating projects, etc. — all without any salary whatsoever, and then be required to pay for occupying one of the empty seats on the plane her husband is using, is something that only a male chauvinist would dream up. You could tell without checking there were no women on that joint committee.

Why, in fact, should any seat on the President's plane on any trip he is taking be allowed to go vacant — whether occupied by his wife, a war veteran, a member of Congress or a friend? Even retired military families can fly gratis on military planes if there is available space. But not the wife of the Commander in Chief?

Julie Eisenhower was grateful for such consideration of her mother's efforts. "My mother works so hard and receives so little credit," was her comment.

Did she otherwise think the judgment about her father's income taxes was fair? "I don't think everything was fair. Sen. Russell Long said he didn't think everything was fair. I think my father has a pretty good case if he had contested it." Little mention had been made, she said, of the fact that he spent \$25,000 of his own money to have an audit made. "He is the first President ever to make public his income taxes. He had an independent firm, Cooper & Lybrand, make an audit."

Won't it make a big difference in her father's fortune to pay out all that money? "That doesn't matter," said the faithful Julie. "My parents have been in public service for 20 years and he never made any money in government and didn't expect to. You don't go into government to make money." She called the whole tax thing a closed issue.

In the meantime, the most popular member of the Nixon family has done so well as assistant editor of the *Saturday Evening Post* she's been made a member of the board of the Curtis Publishing Co., which appointment will be ratified at the stockholders' meeting on May 9.

Pat Nixon — A target of the male chauvinists?



First Lady Pat Nixon