

# IRS Chief Defends It

New York

Donald C. Alexander, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service denied yesterday that the IRS "has become a lending library of tax return information."

"Such an allegation simply isn't true," he said in a speech before the American Newspaper Publishers Association at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Afterward he commented

to newsmen on published reports that the IRS has obstructed a Senate Watergate committee inquiry into a \$100,000 campaign contribution to President Nixon from Howard Hughes.

Alexander said he stood on an IRS statement denying that the agency "engaged in any coverup regarding the committee's investigation." He said the IRS has and will continue to cooperate with the committee.

He said the IRS "recognizes responsibility for two things: To preserve taxpayer privacy and not to reveal whether we're conducting an investigation or not."

He also said that if the President requested in writing information on a taxpayer, by law, the request must be honored. He said he has not received any such requests from the White House.

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