## RS Chief Asks Curb on White House Access to Tax Date

Washington Post Staff Writer By Bob Kuttner

equate to prevent future abuses, and he urged Congress to tighten the law. aecess to tax returns is inadlaw permitting White House missioner Donald C. Alexan der said yesterday that the Internal Revenue Com-

Testifying before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee, Al-eşander told Chairman Edawaiting the approval of the law, there is no legal safe-guard against abuse," he tesward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Budget. "Under present the Office of Management Treasury Department and tial access to tax returns is egislation to limit presidenthat his recommendation for

personally; payer.

however, this policy lacks mation in writing to the commissioner any requests for tax inforthe White House to make he has informally requested Alexander disclosed that

The Senate Watergate over White House-IRS relations. Specifically, the comommended tighter control committee's final report recmittee urged that no White

> President, should be able to get raw tax files.

quest. A similar proposal is at tax returns, except upon Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) Ways and Means Committee pending before the House the President's written rebranch official trom looking barring any proved The Senate July 18 ap an amendment by executive

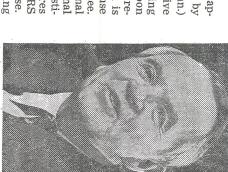
officials to the White House. of tax information by IRS gating improper disclosures Revenue Taxation is investi-Joint Committee on Internal Also, the congressional

see the return of any taxpermits the White House to concluded that the tax code dy's tax commissioner, Morproper One memorandum written by President Kenne-White House request to be But legal opinions dating back to 1961 indicate that timer Caplin, in May, 1961 the IRS considered any

Johnson and Nixon adminisby IRS lawyers in both the That view was reaffirmed

Vernon (Mike) Acree, whom White House investigator sistant IRS Commissioner According to former As-

fouse official, including the



DONALD C. ALEXANDER . . . seeks safeguard

ginning in the early '60s ords to the White House bedures for passing tax rechis main source of tax information, the IRS employed Jack Caulfield identified as ncreasingly casual proce-

say, 'The President is conthat the arrangements were "pretty much ad hoc." He said Caulfield got much of sidering appointing phone. "He didn't have to his information over the Acree said in an interview

> He just said, 'We need this.'" Doe Secretary of the Navy." There were no written

other administrations sat in turns. It was routine." my office and read tax re-"Other representatives procedures, Acree added

only a report on whether ees, which usually involve checks on potential appoint-White House blurred ine tax returns. provision in the law permitproblems, and the general distinction between the individual has any tax ing the President to exam-According to other former the Nixon the tax

returns. cent requests for actual tax about a thousand a year, but tax checks of prospective appointees, at the rate of continuing to make routine tee yesterday that the IRS is told the Senate subcommitthat there have been no re-Commissioner Alexander

list, which was supplied to tion. In the past, any celebpeared on the sensitive case rity with tax problems ap-White House tax informacases, another source of pended" the list of sensitive IRS has "partially sus-He also disclosed that the

Of: was that list which apparthe Treasury Secretary and often to the White House. It brother was under investiga-Ehrlichman that Alabama ently tipped off John D. Gov. George C. Wallace's

noteworthy in terms of tax that the list no longer circuadministration rather than that it is being modified to include only cases that are lates outside the IRS, and tion, and led to a news leak the identity of the taxpayer. Alexander told the panel

standing IRS practice keepnounced a reversal of long-Commissioner Alexander andential. cies designed to reconcile freedom the conflicting principles of ng private tax rulings conficaxpayer confidentiality and Reviewing other IRS poli-0f information,

to be disclosed under the quiring private tax ruling trict Court decision re-Last year, a public interest law firm, Tax Analysts and criticized as "secret law." Freedom Advocates, won a U.S. Dis-000 individual and corporate sued on request to about 30, taxpayers yearly, have been The rulings, which are is 0f Information

That case, which affects

existing rulings, was apquesting rulings to waive IRS would ask taxpayers repolicy applies only to future pealed by the IRS. The new make the rulings public. rulings. Alexander said the ity so that the IRS could their rights to confidential-