

## I.R.S. CHIEF ASKS OUTSIDE INQUIRY

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Alexander Cites Problem of  
'Investigating Ourselves'

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AP) —The head of the Internal Revenue Service said today that there was need for an outside investigation of allegations of corruption and improper activities by the tax agency.

Commissioner Donald C. Alexander said the agency was investigating on its own accusations by some taxpayers of bribery and payoffs to I.R.S. agents in the Middle Atlantic region of the country.

He also reported the agency had 30 agents checking I.R.S. involvement in the so-called "Operation Leprechaun," a 1972 Florida investigation by Federal agencies that included spying on the sex and drinking habits of prominent Miami residents.

But Mr. Alexander said, "There is a real problem of investigating ourselves. Is there a need for an outside investigation? The answer is yes."

He said he favored strengthening the investigative staff of the Joint Committee for Congress for Internal Revenue Taxation rather than establishing a new investigative agency.

"It looks as though investigating the I.R.S. may be permanent, or a semipermanent part of their work," Mr. Alexander told a meeting of Ralph Nader's Public Citizen Forum here.

He did not indicate whether he believed there had been bribery or corruption in tax operations, but said an investigation was needed because, "We have an obligation to ensure to the public that the I.R.S. is not corrupt."

Mr. Alexander, who became commissioner in 1973 after the Operation Leprechaun incidents occurred, said he had determined that while day-to-day control over informants in that operation was under I.R.S. control, the idea for the operation came "from outside I.R.S."