

## Arthur Burns Explains

To the Editor:

Upon returning from a foreign trip, I found on my desk a copy of an article entitled "Burns Linked to I.R.S. Inquiries," which appeared in *The Times* on June 7. (THIS FILE)

The article states that "A Congressional staff report issued today said that it was Arthur F. Burns, now chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who passed on to the Internal Revenue Service President Nixon's order that the tax agency make special investigations of student protesters, black militants and anyone who was financing them." There is no truth in this statement.

The staff document to which your reporter referred states clearly on page 6: "The staff has not found any evidence that anyone in the White House requested that the Service establish a special compliance or data gathering project dealing with extremist organizations." This statement is repeated on page 16 of the staff document.

Beyond this, let me merely note that my only connection with the doings of the I.R.S. consisted in responding to a request by Mr. Thrower, then Commissioner of the Service, for suggestions of prominent citizens who might be appointed to a public advisory committee on tax-exempt organizations.

In the course of a conversation on this subject, according to Mr. Thrower, I also conveyed Mr. Nixon's concern that tax-exempt funds may be supporting some activist groups. I have no recollection whatever of any such conversation with either Mr. Nixon or Mr. Thrower. However that may be, Mr. Thrower records on page 30 of the Congressional staff document that I indicated at the time that I "had no occasion to criticize, but was simply raising the question" of possible ideological bias within the I.R.S.

ARTHUR F. BURNS  
 Chairman, Board of Governors  
 Federal Reserve System  
 Washington, June 16, 1975

The staff report to which Dr. Burns refers also states (page 5), "The interest of the White House in tax examinations of left-wing tax-exempt organizations apparently was conveyed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Randolph Thrower, by Dr. Arthur Burns . . . on June 16, 1969." *The Times* believes its news story was accurate.—Editor, *The Times*.