

Ex-Law Partner Denies He Worked On 1969 Nixon Tax

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 23—James P. Tannian, a former law partner of Richard M. Nixon, testified today that he did not work in 1969 or 1970 on a 1969 income tax deduction from a donation of Mr. Nixon's Vice-Presidential papers.

"There was talk, but no work," said Mr. Tannian, who added that he had worked on such a deduction for the 1968 tax year.

Mr. Tannian's testimony came during the third day of the trial of Frank DeMarco Jr., the lawyer accused of preparing false documents to give President Nixon a substantial tax deduction on a donation of his Vice-Presidential papers to the National Archives.

Mr. DeMarco is accused of lying to Internal Revenue Service agents and of obstructing a Congressional inquiry into Mr. Nixon's taxes.

Jay Horowitz, the Watergate special prosecutor in charge of the case for the Government is attempting to show the jury why Mr. DeMarco would have been motivated to falsify documents.

The deductions that Mr. Nixon initially received for the papers in 1969 were disallowed in 1974 by the Internal Revenue Service because the gifts were made after July 25, 1969, when a new law disallowing deductions for such gifts took effect.

Mr. Tannian is a tax specialist at the Wall Street law firm of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie & Alexander, where Mr. Nixon and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell were once partners.

Mr. Tannian and Richard Ritzel, another lawyer at the firm, handled Mr. Nixon's tax matters until the spring of 1969, when Mr. DeMarco and Herbert W. Kainbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney, took over.

Mr. Tannian said he had never consulted with Mr. DeMarco on any of Mr. Nixon's tax matters and thus would not have any knowledge of the alleged illegal acts.

By showing the manner in which Mr. Tannian handled the donations and permitted deductions in 1968, Mr. Horowitz is trying to show that Mr. DeMarco's acts in 1969, 1970 and subsequent years were irregular.

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