

**TAX AIDE SAYS NIXON  
GOT BREAK ON AUDIT**

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 27 (AP)

—An Internal Revenue Service agent has testified that he was dissuaded from investigating a controversial gift by former President Richard M. Nixon because of fear that an audit of Mr. Nixon's 1971-72 tax return might be publicized.

The agent, Raymond P. Kuschke, told jurors in the trial of Mr. Nixon's former tax lawyer, Frank DeMarco, that top I.R.S. officials warned him in May, 1973, to "handle this examination in a very confidential manner."

Mr. DeMarco is charged with backdating the deed to Mr. Nixon's Vice-Presidential pa-

pers, given to the National Archives, in order to avoid compliance with a new law reducing tax deductions for such gifts. Mr. DeMarco is also charged with attempting to obstruct Congressional inquiry.

Mr. Kuschke said he and another agent interviewed Mr. DeMarco and Arthur Blech, the accountant who prepared Mr. Nixon's tax returns, on May 23, 1973. Mr. Blech declined to show certain data at that time. Mr. Kuschke told the Federal District Court jury.

"Since I was instructed not to talk to unauthorized persons, I had to decide whether to contact third parties to get information," Mr. Kuschke testified. As a result of his audit, Mr. Nixon was informed that his returns were in order.