

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

On Executive order entitled "Inspection by President and Certain Designated Employees of the White House Office of Tax Returns Made Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954"

An Executive order limiting White House access to tax returns was issued by the President today. The order was issued under authority vested in him by the Constitution.

In the past, regulations issued by the Treasury Department and approved by the President pursuant to Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code have placed strict limitations upon agency and public access to tax return information. However, there have been no explicit legal restrictions upon White House access.

The Executive order sets forth strict and legally binding procedures by which the President's access will be governed as well as access by members of his staff. Under this Order, the President must personally specify in writing the returns desired and must personally designate in writing the member of his staff who is authorized to see the returns on his behalf.

On September 11, 1974, the Secretary of the Treasury submitted to Congress proposed legislation to limit generally access to tax returns and related information. The Order issued today complements this proposal, but is effective immediately.

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