

Internal Revenue Service Claims Collecting Tax By Numbers Satisfactory Method

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) today reported satisfactory progress in its massive numbers collection program aimed at making it even tougher to cheat the tax collector.

IRS officials said they are receiving fewer complaints than expected from the millions of taxpayers who are being asked to fill out forms as part of this new program.

The idea is to assign each taxpayer a number. In the case of individuals, their social security numbers are used. Those who have no social security number are being asked to fill out proper forms to get one by October of this year.

After October, when an employer files information on compensation paid he must include the employee's number. The same is true of corporations paying dividends, and banks, savings and loan associations insurance companies and other institutions which make interest payments to their customers.

The IRS then will be able to run all this information through computers to make certain that every person who received such income has reported it.

IRS officials say that when they launched this big numbers project last year, they expected the worst—but they have been pleasantly surprised.

"The complaints don't appear to be running any higher than others we have had involving other tax programs," one official said. "We haven't had any requests from our field offices for additional help to handle the letters."

He said it might just be that the American public has become so numbers oriented that it's taking the new IRS system in stride. "I guess people are just getting used to being assigned numbers," he said. "We have them now on charge plates, bank accounts and just about everything else."

The IRS has reported that it has most of the social security numbers of the 60 million persons who filed income taxes forms last year.

The big problem was expected to be at the other end. Under this new system, corporations and financial institutions were required to write to their shareholders and beneficiaries to get their social security numbers.

The fact that there are about 17 million stockholders suggests the extent of their problem but the IRS reports there is no indication of any serious difficulty.

"The companies and businesses apparently are going ahead and sending out requests," an IRS official said. "We anticipated a heavy number of inquiries but it seems to be pretty well handled by the corporations."

Some individuals might be in for a frustrating time before all of the numbers are collected.

Take the case of a man who owns stock in 10 corporations, and has a savings account in two banks and three savings and loan associations.

He will have to fill out 13 forms—one for each of these institutions which will need his number to include in their report to the IRS showing the interest and dividends that he was paid.

Financial institutions have been making these reports to the IRS, but in the past they have included only the recipient's names. By giving each payee a number, he will have a separate identity that

will make it impossible to connect others with similar names, companies, children. This will be needed where a bank account, or shares of stock may be in a child's name.

The IRS decided on the number of them all. In some cases, parents will have to fill out forms to obtain some 1.3 million Smiths, 900,000 Johnsons, 750,000 Williamses and social security numbers for their

children. This will be needed where a bank account, or shares of stock may be in a child's name.

The IRS said most of the complaints received so far are from those under the mistaken impression that getting a number automatically puts them under a person's social security program.

number, and does not mean that the administrative cost of getting every taxpayer a number of financing "is still up in the air," according to the IRS.

He said Congress refused to ground that the appropriation One official said that most of the complaints come from per-faction of the complainant.

sons who question the need for the numbers. He said that the IRS usually seems to be able to handle such queries to the satisfaction of the complainant.

PAGE 10-A HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon Thursday, May 2, 1963

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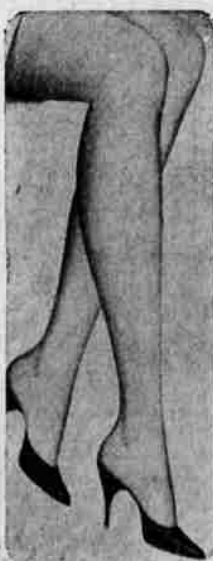
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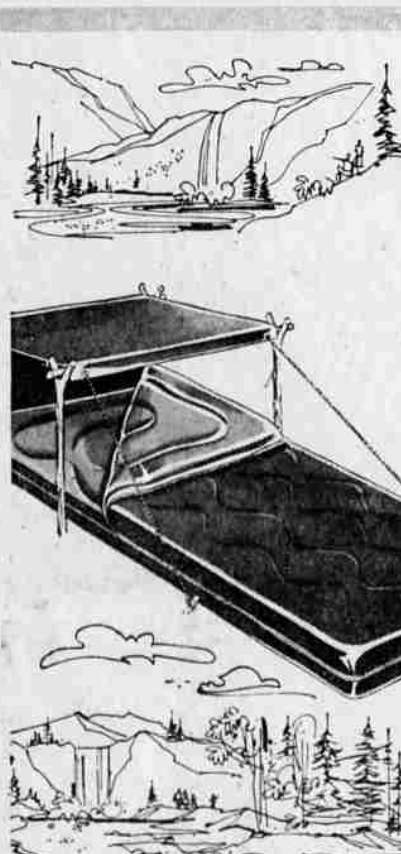
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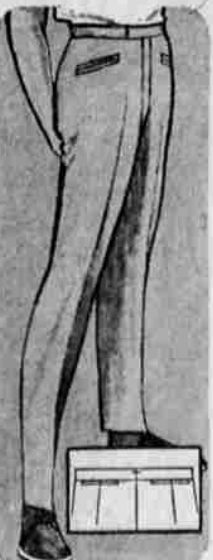
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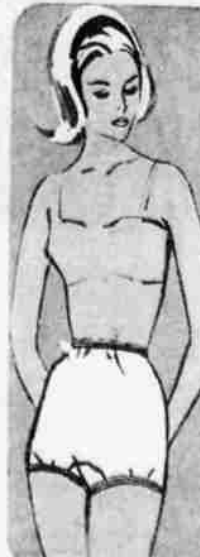
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