

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE  
AND REFER TO

JUN 18 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable George W. Humphrey  
Secretary of the Treasury

The accompanying proposed Treasury Department Order, which is submitted for your signature, has been prepared for the purpose of changing the name of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to the Internal Revenue Service. It seems to me that there is some real practical psychological value to be derived from the substitution of the word "Service" for "Bureau."

The name "Bureau of Internal Revenue" is not a name created by statute, but has been adopted by usage. Our organization is referred to frequently in our official documents as "The Internal Revenue Service" and in my opinion is the preferable designation. For example, the term "Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service" appears generally in the upper left hand corner of our Internal Revenue forms and on all official commissions issued to our examining and investigative personnel.

The Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 432), which is generally understood to be the foundation of the present Internal Revenue system, created the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue and prescribed its duties. It provided that "for the purpose of superintending the collection of internal duties, stamp duties, licenses or taxes imposed by this Act, or which may be hereafter imposed, and of assessing the same, an office is hereby created in the Treasury Department to be called the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue; and the President of the United States is hereby authorized to nominate, and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint, a Commissioner of Internal Revenue \* \*", and charged the Commissioner under the direction of the Secretary with all "matters \* \* which may be necessary to carry this Act into effect." The legislation which followed the Act of July 1, 1862 and the other Civil War Acts, and which has had lasting administrative effect, was the Act of December 24, 1872 (17 Stat. 401). Although many revenue acts have been enacted since, including the present income, excess profits, estate and gift, and excise tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, there has been no substantial change in the statutory position of the Commissioner and his office from the Act of December 24, 1872 to the present day.



Commissioner