

# NEWS RELEASE

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT

905 Second Avenue Building, Seattle 4  
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Taxpayers in Washington and Alaska established some new do-it-yourself records with their Federal income tax returns during the 1959 filing period, Mr. William E. Frank, District Director of Internal Revenue reported today.

Mr. Frank said nearly 13,000 fewer taxpayers needed its help during the 1959 period, compared with the year before, and that this was the second largest decrease of the last four years.

In 1956 when the do-it-yourself program first was emphasized on a nationwide basis to save taxpayers the time and cost of traveling to Internal Revenue Service offices for help, a total of 354,000 taxpayers needed help.

This year, the figure dropped to 265,000 or nearly 25 percent under the 1956 total.

Mr. Frank said the manpower devoted to the taxpayer assistance program has dropped even more sharply during the four-year period---from 4,870 days in 1956 to 3,210 man-days this year, or a decrease of 33 percent. Internal Revenue Service used this manpower saving in other activities producing direct revenue.

Internal Revenue Service attributed the sharper drop in agency manpower requirements for this activity to a number of factors, including greater taxpayer familiarity with filing requirements and increased efficiency of Internal Revenue Service employes in giving assistance.

With the expansion of the do-it-yourself program in 1956, Internal Revenue Service broadened its taxpayer education approach with the publication

of new and simplified tax guides, it stepped up the tempo of its teaching taxes program in the nation's high schools and colleges, it conducted classes for representatives of large industries and government agencies to help employees with their returns, and it improved its instructions issued with tax forms.

Another contributing factor, Mr. Frank said, was the increased use of the punch-card, tax reporting Form 1040-A permitted by raising the income ceiling from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the first time during the 1959 filing period.

One of the most important factors, Mr. Frank said, was the increasingly greater cooperation of the press, radio and TV in publicizing helpful tax information.

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