



Parade 4/30/77
Q. Now that Henry Kissinger is no longer Secretary of State, can we find out the true story of the wiretaps he was instrumental in having placed on his colleagues and friends?—E. D., Bethesda, Md.

A. Kissinger, of course, is ashamed of the wiretapping episodes, which took place from 1969 to 1971. He has said repeatedly that he regretted ever having been part of them. In 1969, however, he was "a new boy" in the Nixon Administration and was currying favor with Nixon. He was fearful of John Ehrlichman and Bob Halde- man, and so he adopted the Nixonian phobias and suspicions of the time.

Among the names he provided to the FBI for wire- tapping and surveillance purposes were those of several men he had hired for the staff of the National Security Council, including Morton Halperin, Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Daniel Davidson, Winston Lord, Rich- ard Moose, Richard Sneider and Anthony Lake. Others included Lt. Gen. Robert Pursley, a military assistant to Melvin Laird, Nixon's Defense Secretary; William Safire, a Nixon speechwriter; William H. Sullivan, former U.S. Ambassador to Laos; Henry Brandon, Washington correspondent for the Sunday Times of London, and Hedrick Smith of The New York Times. Wiretaps on Marvin Kalb of CBS, William Beecher, then of The New York Times, and John Sears, a Nixon campaign aide, were ordered by John Mitchell.

The wiretaps were fruitless. None of the men wire- tapped revealed national security secrets. Recently a federal judge ordered Richard Nixon, John Mitchell and Bob Haldeman to pay damages (the amount not yet ascertained at this writing) to Morton Halperin and his family for having maintained wiretaps on their conversations.

A book which describes the wiretapping episodes in detail is *The American Police State* by David Wise (published by Random House).