

**WASHINGTON**

**Merry-Go-Round**

by Jack Anderson



**Foreign Diplomats Love Kissinger**

**WASHINGTON** - Since Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's role in the CIA "destabilizing" operation in Chile was revealed, he is once again being accused of perjury. Kissinger's critics are asking the same question asked of former President Nixon: Is anyone above the law?

Foreign diplomats, however, are upset over the attacks on Kissinger. Some have let it be known that they consider Kissinger almost indispensable to continuing the East-West detente and settling the Middle East crisis.

With Richard Nixon gone, only Kissinger has a personal relationship with the key leaders - Soviet party leader Brezhnev in Moscow, Chinese Premier Chou En-lai in Peking, President Sadat in Cairo, President Assad in Syria and Prime Minister Rabin in Israel.

The Soviets are particularly uneasy over Kissinger's future. They have developed a special relationship with him, which they want to continue. They respect him as a formidable adversary. But they have developed a trust in him that makes it possible to deal with him. They are unsure whether they could establish the same relationship with his successor.

It was to quiet these fears that President Ford gave his ringing endorsement of Kissinger at the United Nations.

Since the CIA Chile operation was revealed, meanwhile, secret diplomatic cables have been pouring into the State Department reporting that foreign leaders everywhere believe the CIA is also working against them.

The cables from India for example, report that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi believes her government may be a CIA target. And Greek leaders, according to the cables from Athens, are convinced that the CIA was

behind the trouble in Cyprus. We have seen secret documents which tell of CIA bribes to leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But we have also seen intelligence reports of Soviet and Chinese undercover activity to undermine democratic governments.

The question is whether the United States should get down and operate on the communist level.

**ECONOMIC KNAVES:** President Ford's economic advisers have managed to make themselves look foolish.

His economic czar, Alan Greenspan, told a group of poor people that stock brokers have suffered the most from inflation. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns blamed the public for runaway prices, and Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz suggested that Americans kill off half their pets to save food.

But the participants in President Ford's economic summit have a better suggestion. In their private discussions, they have agreed generally that the President has to make a clean break with the economic policies of President Nixon if he hopes to restore public confidence.

Public confidence is the most important weapon to fight inflation. And the public simply has lost confidence in the Nixon economic team, which President Ford has now inherited.

**BLUNT ADVICE:** Republican congressional leaders have given President Ford some blunt advice. They reminded him that he started out making decisions by himself when he first took over the Republican leadership in the House. This got him into hot water, so he began listening to the other leaders. He was far more successful, they suggested after he began consulting with them.

As President, he has relapsed into making decisions all alone. He failed to consult

Republican leaders about pardoning former President Nixon. The decision has backfired badly.

He also failed to consult them about removing George Bush as Republican National Chairman. Changing the party leadership at the height of the political campaign has brought an outcry from Republican candidates all over the country.

The President agreed with their advice and has dutifully promised to consult them hereafter on major decisions.

**NIXON'S WOES:** Friends of Richard Nixon tell us he is in no condition to testify at the Watergate trials. He is so depressed, they say, that he can't bear to discuss Watergate. Any cross-examination, they fear, would cause his emotional collapse.

They definitely hope, therefore, that the court will accept his phlebitis condition as medical grounds for excusing him from the witness stand. The discovery of a new blood clot in his lung has strengthened his case.

Nixon had been subpoenaed earlier to be deposed in a Watergate-related lawsuit. But his friends feared he couldn't stand the emotional strain. They persuaded him to enter the hospital the day before he was scheduled to testify.

Our court sources believe Judge John Sirica will eventually order independent doctors to examine the former president. Sirica is expected to study their diagnosis of Nixon's physical and emotional incapacity before ruling whether he must testify.

If the doctors believe he is too ill to appear in court, the judge is expected to order Nixon's deposition taken quietly at San Clemente — perhaps on film so it can be shown in the courtroom.

**WATCH ON WASTE:** The President wants to trim \$5 billion from this year's budget. He invited key Senators to the White House for a dinner the other evening to discuss budget cuts. Budget Director Roy Ash gave them a list of proposed savings. The Senators couldn't agree on any of them. Each Senator stoutly defended his own pet projects while arguing strenuously that the other fellow's ought to be cut.

**WASHINGTON WHIRL:** President Ford is fiercely opposed to the campaign reform that Congress is fashioning. He objects vigorously to the public financing of presidential campaigns. He has pulled strings on Capitol Hill, therefore, to kill the campaign-spending bill. In the aftermath of Watergate, it is likely that Congress will pass the reforms. And Ford, rather than risk public wrath, will undoubtedly sign the bill...The General Services Administration is holding in "courtesy storage" some 1,100 boxes of gifts that Richard Nixon received while he was in the White House. The value of the gifts is estimated in excess of \$2 million. Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski has assigned a task force to examine the questions raised by the foreign gifts, particularly the jewelry. As of now, say our sources, he is leaning toward the conclusion that most of the gifts belong to the government...Some major stumbling blocks stand in the way of a Cuban-American detente. There is the billion-dollar question, for example, of the property Fidel Castro seized from U.S. interests. On the other hand, Castro would like to get rid of the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo. The two governments will probably agree to resume normal travel, but it is not likely the United States will give up Guantanamo or that Castro will make full payment for the seized property.