

WXPost
Nixon *Attributed Taps* JUN 6 1974

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President Nixon strongly suggested in a censored portion of the White House transcripts of Watergate tape recordings Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger ordered the wiretapping of top administration staff officials.

The President made the allegation to his former White House counsel, John W. Dean III, during a discussion on Feb. 28, 1973, of the national security wiretaps.

In a passage marked by garbled syntax, the unexpurgated House Judiciary Committee version of the transcript quotes the President as saying to Dean:

"Henry (unintelligible) . . . At least I know not because I know that I know that he asked that it be done. And I assumed that it was Lake and Halperin. They're both bad. But the taps were, too. They never helped us. Just gobs and gobs of material: gossip and bullshitting—the tapping was very,

very unproductive thing . . ."

The Knight Newspaper Service published the first account of the presidential utterance on May 18. Mr. Nixon's remarks were deleted from the published White House transcript on the ground that they were "not related to presidential action."

Secretary Kissinger's role in the national security wiretapping has been a persistent subject of conjecture and investigation. In a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Sept. 17, 1973, Kissinger said:

"First, I never recommended the practice of wiretapping. I was aware of it, and I went along with it to the extent of supplying the names of the people who had had access to the sensitive documents in question.

"Despite some newspaper reports, I never recommended it, urged it or took it anywhere."

(Morton Halperin and Tony Lake were former members of the National Security Council

staff. Lake went to work for Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) in his 1972 presidential campaign and Halperin left to join the Brookings Institution.)

Kissinger, who is to hold a press conference at 3 p.m. today, was not available yesterday for comment on the presidential observation. He has privately taken the position that he described his role in the wiretapping controversy fully to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the September, 1973, testimony.

The White House yesterday stood by its earlier statement that Kissinger's testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee is "accurate." White House spokesmen would not, however, comment on the statement attributed to the President in the uncensored version of the transcript.

Halperin recently told three Senate subcommittees looking into the wiretapping episode that the first four officials subjected to the tapping were

to Kissinger

all associated with internal governmental opposition to the Vietnam war.

They were himself, former NSC staffers Daniel Davidson and Helmut Sonnenfeld, and Robert Pursley, who was military adviser to then-Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird.

Davidson has been a Vietnam adviser to former Ambassador-at-Large Averell Harriman. Pursley had been a military adviser to former defense secretaries Robert S. McNamara and Clark Clifford. Sonnenfeld is now counselor to Secretary Kissinger.

Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee has cleared the legal groundwork to begin taking evidence on domestic surveillance activities by the White House, which would include the wiretaps targeted at 13 government officials and four newsmen between 1969 and 1971.

The committee made public a series of letters describing the terms of the agreement under which FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley would

make available sensitive documents bearing on the inquiry.

In a May 14, 1974, letter to Kelley, House Judiciary Committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.) said:

"It is necessary for the staff to be able to report to the Judiciary Committee the facts concerning the basis for the wiretaps, the nature of the material transmitted to the President, Dr. Kissinger, Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, and the FBI's investigation into the removal of the logs and files from the FBI and the retention of those files and logs in the White House."

The FBI conducted an intensive investigation into the wiretaps under former acting FBI director William D. Ruckelshaus.

In reporting last year on the results of the investigation, former Attorney General Elliot G. Richardson noted that the bureau had to rely on Kissinger's own recollections of his role in the taps "as to which, of course, he is a better witness than we are."