

WASHINGTON

Merry-Go-Round



The Trouble with Henry by Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON - In these days of Watergate, the conduct of our foreign affairs is almost totally controlled by one man, the irrepressible Henry Kissinger. The problem with having an impresario for secretary of state, however, is that he can handle only one problem at a time. While he is trying to bring peace to the Middle East, the rest of the world is ignored. Here is a brief run-down of some of the problems awaiting Kissinger's attention:

— Experts predict the Greek military junta is bound to fall within months. Many Greek people resent continued U.S. support of the dictatorship. No matter who assumes the reins in Athens, we are likely to lose a valuable ally.

— The white supremacist nations in Africa are gearing for war with their black neighbors. Here in Washington, a few powerful military men, congressmen and lobbyists are working behind the scenes to aid South Africa and Rhodesia. The State Department is opposed to helping these racist governments, but everyone is waiting for Henry to come home.

— Detente with Russia and China is showing signs of strain. Peking is going through one of its periodic purges. Russia is irritated over Kissinger's Middle East successes.

— India desperately needs financial help and wants to normalize the strained relations with Washington. Kissinger can't find the time, however, for a long-planned trip to New Delhi.

These are just a few of the pressing problems. There simply don't seem to be

enough Henry Kissingers to go around.

Meanwhile, the spreading famine around the world poses an agonizing dilemma for U.S. policymakers.

Kissinger favors rushing more aid to the starving nations. He views food export-

tation not only as humane but as good foreign policy.

The diplomatic superstar thinks the United States can score points with many underdeveloped nations by helping them now. Food may even help bring peace to the Middle East, in Kissinger's view. Syria is only one crop failure away from starvation.

But Kissinger's plan would mean higher prices for American housewives. His foes argue that the poor and elderly in America would wind up bearing the sacrifice. Higher food prices would also contribute to inflation and consumer discontent.

Last Friday, a cabinet level meeting was convened to grapple with the complex food problem. A firm policy has to be worked out in time for the World Food Conference this fall.

Sources privy to the discussions have told us that Kissinger and Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz are competing for the leadership of the American delegation.

If Butz leads the American contingent, the American consumer will be the winner. If Kissinger leads it, the starving nations of the world will get more help.

Either way, the painful decision is going to hurt someone.

Won't Quit: President Nixon has now made at least one thing perfectly clear. He will not resign, even under strong pressure.

Nixon's determination to "tough it out" may turn the impeachment hearings into a political proceeding. Unparalleled political pressures already are being brought on key members of Congress. One source close to the impeachment inquiry warned that "this process will make the Andrew Johnson impeachment seem tame and bipartisan."

Both sides in the impeachment debate have already become sidetracked on tangential issues. For example, the White House has condemned the "leaks" from

the committee's closed hearings. And committee members have complained that they still have not received all the essential tapes.

The President's public release of the transcripts, meanwhile, has set off such a controversy about his language and moral character that the criminal evidence and subversion of the system have escaped the public's attention.

Thoughtful congressmen fear that the President's case may not be decided on its legal merits. There is serious concern in the halls of Congress that impeachment may be resolved not in the thousands of pages of evidence, but on the decks of the presidential yacht or in the deleted expletives of the transcripts.

Watergate Woes: Watergate has caused serious problems for the legal profession.

The latest attorney to become a Watergate casualty is William O. Bittman, the lawyer for Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt. Bittman will leave the prestigious Washington law firm of Hogan and Hartson at the end of next month. His departure from the firm came less than three weeks after the release of President Nixon's famous transcripts.

Bittman's name appears several times in the documents in connection with Hunt's demand for clemency. The \$75,000 in hush money which the White House paid Hunt was also delivered through Bittman.

The biggest casualty so far, of course, is former Vice President Spiro Agnew. He recently was barred from the practice of law in Maryland. Richard Kleindienst, the former attorney general, recently pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. Already, the Arizona Bar Association is reviewing the case against him.

Similarly, the California Bar is considering disbarment proceedings against several Watergate figures, in-

cluding President Nixon himself. The story is the same for John Mitchell in New York.

Former presidential counsel John Dean has already been disbarred in Virginia.

At least the legal profession has been quick to recognize the dangers posed by the Watergate scandal.

The Hughes Papers: One of the Watergate crimes that was planned but never committed was the burglarizing of Las Vegas publisher Hank Greenspun's safe. Watergate conspirators G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt apparently planned to steal a stash of Howard Hughes memos from the safe and escape in a waiting Howard Hughes plane.

We have now obtained copies of the documents that the Watergate burglars planned to steal. These show that Hughes was able to get inside information and favorable decisions out of Washington. He had access to the White House itself.

He was also able to send his emissaries into the Justice Department to reverse an antitrust ruling that had prevented him from acquiring another hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

The Civil Aeronautics Board granted him permission to purchase the Air West airline after he hired President Nixon's close friend Pat Hillings to intervene.

One secret memo shows that in 1968 he received privileged information that helped him to buy up valuable gold and silver options. His chief lieutenant, Robert Maheu, reported that the inside information came "from contacts in the Geological Department of the Department of Interior..." "They had made a five-year study of mining in the Western states. This information becomes public in January 1969. This is the reason for dating the options prior to the release of this information."

Obviously, somebody up there in the high places of Washington liked Howard Hughes.