

(Original, and more detailed story filed Watergate)

'Little Justification' for Taps, Says Committee

Washington

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee said today it found "very little, if any justification" for the White House-sponsored wiretapping of the offices of four newsmen and 12 officials from 1969 to 1971.

In a formal report to the Senate recommending the condemnation of Henry A. Kissinger as secretary of state, the committee said the wiretapping was "unjustified and unwarranted" and that it was "not in the best interests of the United States to have the source of leaks of sensitive national security information."

CRITICISMS

The committee reported that in examining the wiretapping records it found no grounds to hold Kissinger as secretary of state.

It added:

The committee was deeply concerned, however, over the pattern of casual and arbitrary interception of individual rights which

this inquiry brought to light."

Kissinger had testified before the committee that his only role in the wiretapping was to provide the names of individuals who had access to information that had been leaked to the press.

The actual wiretapping was carried out by the FBI with the approval of then Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

REPORT

The committee was permitted to study an FBI report on the wiretaps but it declined not to make public the details of the wiretapping, such as the names of the broader surveillance.

While the names, however, have appeared in the press, and some of them seemed to have been connected with national security matters.

Examination of the FBI report on these wiretaps revealed "very little, if any, justification was presented in most instances, and that the attorney gener-

al's review was routine," the report said.

"At the time of the surveillance in question adequate standards of probable cause were not applied and adequate procedural safeguards with respect to authorizing and terminating the taps were not observed," it said.

The committee, noting that it had decided on Tuesday to launch a study of wiretapping, said it "intends to keep this matter under review to insure that neither officers or employees of the Department of State, the National Security Council, or any other agency, nor private citizens are subjected in the treatment to which officers of the Department of State and the NSC and members of the press were exposed during the recent past and to see what can be done to make sure that under cover of national security surveillance does not take place which is not related to a bona fide national security situation."

New York Times