

Senate Confirms Kissinger, 78 to 7

By Marilyn Berger

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After a desultory debate that had little to do with foreign policy, the Senate yesterday approved the nomination of Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State by an overwhelming vote of 78 to 7.

A swearing-in ceremony is scheduled today in the East Room of the White House, to be witnessed by President Nixon and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, members of the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps, congressional leaders, high State Department officials and members of the National Security Council and Kissinger's family and friends.

Kissinger came to America at age 15 in 1938, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany. His accession to the No. 1 Cabinet post was evidence, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) said yesterday, of "the miracle of United States history... a magnificent testimony that we believe in what we say."

Only a few senators were on the floor for the debate that preceded the vote.

Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J.W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) expressed disappointment at the turnout. While there had never been the "slightest doubt" that Kissinger would be confirmed, Fulbright said, he had hoped there would be opportunity for debate on the nation's foreign policy.

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Associated Press

Henry Kissinger after yesterday's confirmation. He is to be sworn in today.

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KISSINGER, From A1

Fulbright expressed concern that detente with the Soviet Union was "unraveling," and that the Senate was partly to blame because one of its members had introduced a resolution that could inhibit a relaxation of tensions with Moscow. He was referring to the amendment introduced by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) that would prohibit extending most-favored-nation tariff treatment, credits and investment guarantees to any nation limiting emigration.

Opposition to the nomination was based on lingering dissatisfaction with Kissinger's role in the wiretapping of 13 government officials and 4 newsmen for "national security" reasons and, in the case of Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), on a foreign policy that he said "makes the needs of our own society secondary to the demands of a growing arsenal for adventures abroad."

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) in voting "no" said, "I cannot support anyone for high and influential political office who does not have a strong conviction and a clearly delineated position on the issue of government surveillance of American citizens. Government intrusion upon privacy by wiretap, bugs and personal surveillance threatens the survival of the whole concept of personal privacy, which goes to the very heart of freedom itself."

The Foreign Relations Committee had reported to the Senate that Kissinger's role in the wiretapping "did not constitute grounds to bar his confirmation." But it said it found "very little, if any, justification" for the national security—wiretaps undertaken during Kissinger's tenure as the President's national security adviser.

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

An examination of the wiretaping record evoked harsh

criticism. "The committee was deeply concerned," the report said, "over the pattern of casual and arbitrary infringement of individual rights which this inquiry brought to light."

Before casting his negative vote, Sen. Harold E. Hughes (D-Iowa) expressed reservations about Kissinger's "insensitivity to individual liberties" and his "power broker" philosophy of international relations marked by a "chilling, chessboard view of the world."

Even Kissinger's supporters expressed reservations about the administration's 4½-year record in foreign policy. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), while calling Kissinger "extraordinarily well qualified," said administration Indochina policy should go down as "one of its principal failures." Muskie also said that the "secrecy and surprise" of summitry not only had "theatrical" qualities, but that the cost in relations with America's allies had been "serious and possibly dangerous."

But overwhelming support was on Kissinger's side, with Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) expressing the widely held view that the President's national security adviser has been "the one shining light within the staff of the White House."

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana put in a word for Kissinger's predecessor, "the man," he said, "who was forgotten this morning." Mansfield describe William P. Rogers as "a dignified, decent, tolerant, understanding individual who did a far better job as Secretary of State than he has ever been given credit for."

Throughout his tenure, Rogers was overshadowed by Kissinger's sometimes-flamboyant, always highly articulate style. Mansfield, however, said Rogers had always been forthcoming, "always honest and candid, insofar as the scope of his knowledge was concerned." This "good man," he said, "deserves the thanks of this body."