

67x 40

# How Kissinger Runs Foreign Policy



Jack Anderson

FOR THE past five years, U.S. foreign policy has been almost totally dominated by one man — Henry Kissinger. Inside sources, with secret documents to back up their story, have told us how he has manipulated the diplomatic strings.

Throughout the Nixon years, Kissinger steadfastly maintained to inquiring reporters that he never recommended policy to the President unless his views were solicited. He merely presented "options," he vowed, and left it to the chief to make the decisions.

It was said President Nixon would retire to the solitude of the Lincoln sitting room or to his secluded office in the White House annex, where he would pore over his options. After much agonizing and scratching on yellow legal pads he would emerge and announce his momentous decisions.

★ ★ ★

THIS IS NOT, according to our sources, how it happened. They say Kissinger seldom failed to give the President his personal recommendations and Mr. Nixon seldom failed to take the advice.

The pattern was set early in 1969 when Mr. Nixon gave the National Security Council staff a pep talk. After a few general remarks, according to several eyewitnesses, he nodded toward Kissinger; "Henry and I are going to end the war," the President said, with a sly smile. "We want you fellows to take care of the rest of the world."

Our sources say Mr. Nixon then launched into a furious and vulgar assault

on the State Department. Foreign policy was going to be handled by the White House, he declared, and not by the "striped-pants faggots" at Foggy Bottom.

Thereafter, Kissinger set up his own private State Department in the basement of the White House, where he directed every aspect of the decision-making machinery.

Sources who occasionally were called into their private meetings say Mr. Nixon and Kissinger apparently didn't engage in deep, intellectual discussions. They talked about world issues in terms of personalities.

★ ★ ★

MOST OF Kissinger's recommendations to the President were submitted formally in secret memos, which were guarded as closely as nuclear secrets.

We, however, have seen some of them. A typical Kissinger-to-Nixon memo would be typed on White House letterhead and stamped SECRET. Kissinger would begin with terse background information and then outline his "recommendations."

At the bottom of the page were two blank lines, the leftmost marked "approve," and the other "disapprove." Almost never, according to our sources, did Mr. Nixon initial the "disapprove" space.

Kissinger's domination of foreign policy has continued into the Ford Administration. Like Mr. Nixon before him, Mr. Ford leans heavily on Kissinger for foreign policy guidance. Our sources say, in fact, that Mr. Ford has not overruled Kissinger.