

# Kissinger Repeats His Denial on Bugs

## Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger again denied that he initiated wiretap surveillance of White House subordinates.

Kissinger made his comments yesterday when he testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of the administration's \$4.2 billion foreign aid bill.

Senator Edmund Muskie (Dem-Maine) told Kissinger he was raising the issue because of a possible conflict in Kissinger's testimony during his confirmation hearing to be Secretary of State before the committee last September.

"Did you initiate any recommendations for such wiretaps?" Muskie asked Kissinger.

"No, I did not," Kissinger replied.

Kissinger, who became irritated when newsmen pressed him on the issue

during a news conference Thursday, said he appreciated Muskie's raising the matter, which concerned a wiretapping program initiated by the White House to stop leaks of classified documents to news media.

"I testified before this committee that the program was decided upon at a meeting between the President, the then-attorney general, and the director of the FBI," Kissinger said.

"I was told the program was decided upon," Kissinger said. "I was asked to supply the names of persons who had had access to the documents that were leaked.

"I had no reason to think, and to this day have no reason to expect, that the program was anything other than legal"

"My role was to submit the names of individuals who had had access to the documents that had been leaked.

*United Press*