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Articles About Kissinger Spur Attacks on 'Leaks'

WASHINGTON, June 14—The leak, that system of transmitting information without seeming to do so, was denounced with unusual vehemence this week by the Nixon Administration.

Singled out for particular criticism were the leaks resulting in newspaper articles relating to Secretary of State Kissinger and the wiretaps placed on some of his staff members. Those leaks led Dean Burch, a White House counsel, to charge that Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, "seems to have lost control" of his committee.

Asked to comment, Mr. Rodino said:

"Well, up until now we've claimed with justification and a great deal of pride, that there weren't any [leaks]. They are troublesome. This is a process that requires deliberation and fairness. I wouldn't want this to be used to discredit the committee."

Steps have been taken to try to stop what the House Republican leader, John J. Rhodes, called a "deluge" of information from committee sources.

Initially, the committee's transcripts of the Oval Office tapes were given to the members. But once a comparison of the committee's transcripts and the White House transcripts of the same conversation appear in print, a new rule was instituted: The transcripts are now returned by the members before they leave Room 2141.

'Episode Is Over'

Then there are the memos prepared for the committee by William P. Dixon, a staff member, that summarize and interpret the material that has been heard—and that have been the source of several recent newspaper articles.

"The Dixon-memo episode is over," a committee official said. He said that the memos would no longer contain sensitive material and would no longer be passed out routinely to members without clearance from Mr. Rodino or other senior officials.

Most leaks are based on individuals' recollections. Sometimes, however, there are documents which are passed on in private and with a guarantee of anonymity.

In addition, the 38 members of the committee are not the only source for material related to their investigation. Articles have appeared based on material that reportedly came from sources at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The White House has alleged that the leaking of material is selective and politically motivated, designed to discredit Mr. Nixon.

But the White House has also leaked material when it seemed advantageous. Two examples are the first letter from the committee asking for 43 Watergate-related tapes, and the reported eagerness of the White House to supply Republican members of the committee with copies of the defense brief offered by James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's lawyer—with the apparent thought that these same members might leak the brief to the press.

Reporters, dependent on leaks for any information beyond the outline provided at

the daily briefing by Mr. Rodino, have conflicting feelings about their daily pursuit and use of such information.

"I'm puzzled by the motive behind some of these leaks, because many of them have not contributed much to our knowledge about the impeachment and the President — they've been on subsidiary issues in some cases," said Laurence E. Taylor, a Washington correspondent for The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. But he added, "Which is not to say, by the way, that we don't pursue leaks as avidly as anybody else."

Jon Margolis of The Chicago Tribune said, "I find it unpleasant to ask someone to violate his ethical commitment, and I haven't done it. That doesn't mean I haven't asked people questions, but when they have said that to answer would violate the rules, I don't say, 'Oh, come on.' And that doesn't mean that if somebody volunteered information I wouldn't use it—and I have used it."

He added, "This stuff is going to come out—we're just playing ego games. It's just a sport."

Several reporters said that this situation did not seem analagous to Watergate and its cover-up, in which information was leaked that would otherwise have been concealed. Some committee members, in disagreeing publicly with Mr. Rodino's decision to keep the hearings secret for the time being, announced that they would continue to make information available on the ground that the public had the right to know what was being heard and said.

'A Ridiculous Position'

"I think we're in a ridiculous position," said Adam Clymer, White House correspondent for The Baltimore Sun. "The committee has no good strategic reason for trying to keep the stuff secret." He said, "Most of the leaks come from those who very much want Nixon impeached, and while I don't think they're lying, what seems important to them is stuff that makes the President look bad."

The Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, said that he was disturbed about the leaks and had spoken to Mr. Rodino about them. Mr. Rodino promised that he would admonish the committee again, and has done so.

Others have tried stronger remedies. Samuel Dash, chief majority counsel to the Senate Watergate committee, said that the committee was seriously disturbed by the problem. He said that, in an effort to put a stop to the leaks, documents were given to only one or two staff members suspected of being sources, and that one person was caught in this fashion and dismissed.

2 Killed in Helicopter Crash

PHILADELPHIA, June 14 (UPI)—A New Jersey pilot and his passenger were killed yesterday when a helicopter crashed into a tree and burst into flames in the northeast section of this city. The victims were identified as the pilot, Walter Bott, 53 years old, of Riverton, N. J., and his passenger, Arnold Goldman, of Bala Cynwyd, Pa.