

Kissinger Wins Support on Taps

Washington

Former acting FBI director William D. Ruckelshaus said yesterday Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger played no apparent role in initiating wiretaps of 13 government aides and four reporters.

Ruckelshaus, who first revealed the existence of the wiretaps 13 months ago, said he would exonerate Kissinger of any wrongdoing.

"I think his role, as best as I have been able to determine, is pretty much as he has described it," Ruckelshaus said.

Kissinger threatened to resign his post last week unless exonerated from allegations that he lied about his role in the wiretaps during his confirmation hearings last September before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Kissinger's position is that he did not recommend that the wiretapping be undertaken to plug national security leaks. He simply cooperated by supplying names of people who had access to secret files.

Ruckelshaus, who headed the FBI during its wiretap investigation, said he believes that Kissinger "made it clear from the outset"



UPI Telephoto

WILLIAM RUCKELSHAUS
Ex-FBI leader

that the part he played in the wiretapping was one of cooperation rather than initiation.

Ruckelshaus was interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation."

He commented on FBI documents submitted to the House Judiciary Committee that, according to some members, apparently contradict Kissinger's senate testimony.

"One of the things that is happening is that some of

Back Page Col. 5

KISSINGER

From Page 1

the documents that are dribbling out the House Judiciary Committee are being used for purposes for which they were never prepared.

"The purpose . . . was not to determine what Mr. Kissinger's role was, or was not to determine who initiated what tap . . . It was to get an overall picture of what happened, where these (wiretap) records were, and a summary of what was discovered from the taps themselves."

Ruckelshaus said the FBI records are "now being used in order to determine . . . Whether he's told the truth before the Foreign Relations Committee. I think it's really unfair to take those reports in that context . . ."

"My own review of the records does not indicate that his role was other than a consultative role . . . He did not take a direct role as far as I know," Ruckelshaus said.

United Press