

Fulbright Sees Kissinger As Detente Foes' Target

WASHINGTON, July 15 — Senator J. W. Fulbright suggested today that opponents of détente with the Soviet Union were hoping to unseat Secretary of State Kissinger as the result of the Foreign Relations Committee's investigation into his role in the wiretapping of 17 Government officials and newsmen from 1969 to 1971.

Speaking to newsmen after a closed hearing into Mr. Kissinger's activities, Mr. Fulbright said that nothing significant had developed so far to call into serious question Mr. Kissinger's testimony before the committee last fall when it approved his nomination as Secretary of State.

Addressing a throng of newsmen and cameramen in the hallway outside the committee room, Mr. Fulbright said the issue was "a tempest in a teapot," and he asked why there was so much interest by the news media.

"It could be part of an effort to unseat Dr. Kissinger," he answered himself. "I wonder if they're getting at détente by getting at Dr. Kissinger?"

Includes Schlesinger

Asked by newsmen whom "they" referred to, Mr. Fulbright, the Arkansas Democrat who is chairman of the committee, said members of the Senate and the Pentagon. Asked if he included Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger in that category, he said yes.

He then added: "I don't think that the wiretapping has anything to do with that."

This was a new tack by Mr. Fulbright and seemed to reflect his own personal concern, expressed many times, about the future of the policy of seeking better relations with the Russians.

He has strongly supported the Administration and Mr. Kissinger personally in their efforts to ease tensions with Moscow and has often castigated the Pentagon and such colleagues as Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, for supporting policies counter to détente.

Testifying at today's hearing were Clarence M. Kelley, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Thomas J. Smith, an inspector of the intelligence division of the F.B.I., and James B. Adams, deputy associate director of the agency, who explained the procedures used in the wiretapping.

Nixon Letter Given Out

Mr. Fulbright also distributed to the committee and later to newsmen a letter he received on Friday from President Nixon that said the Mr. Kissinger's previous testimony last September about the wiretapping had been "entirely correct."

Mr. Kissinger had told the committee that the wiretapping was ordered by Mr. Nixon as a result of concern in the Administration over leaks of sensitive material to the press.

Mr. Nixon in a statement on May 22, 1973, had taken full responsibility for ordering the taps, and said in his letter to Mr. Fulbright, "I welcome this opportunity to affirm" that statement.

"I am familiar with the testimony given by Secretary Kissinger before your committee to the effect that he performed the function, at my request, of furnishing information about individuals within investigative categories that I established so

that an appropriate and effective investigation could be conducted in each case," Mr. Nixonsaid.

"This testimony is entirely correct, and I wish to affirm categorically that Secretary Kissinger and others involved in various aspects of this investigation were operating under my specific authority and were carrying out my express orders," Mr. Nixon said.

Reports Spurred Hearings

The current round of hearings developed as a result of news reports last month based on F.B.I. data that suggested that Mr. Kissinger had not been candid with the committee last fall in describing his role in the taps. Mr. Kissinger had said he supplied names of those on his National Security Council staff to the F.B.I. but had not initiated the taps.

Memorandums from the late J. Edgar Hoover, then the F.B.I. director; said that Mr. Kissinger or his aide at that time, Col Alexander M. Haig Jr., had initiated some taps. The latter was promote to general and is now White House chief of state.

Mr. Kissinger on June 11 threatened to resign unless the Foreign Relations Committee cleared him of any wrongdoing in the taps.

After today's hearing, Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, said Mr. Kelley had "substantiated" the committee's earlier findings of Mr. Kissinger's fitness for office.

Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, said that he was convinced that Mr. Kissinger's wiretapping role was at the orders of the White House and that it had not been his idea to carry out the orders.

No Doubts Raised

No committee member has yet raised any doubts about Mr. Kissinger's account and it appears the committee will clear him of any suspicion of misleading the group.

The committee will hear tomorrow from Bernard Wells, a retired F.B.I. official who had been assistant to William H. Sullivan, deputy to the late Mr Hoover.

Mr. Kissinger will testify on July 23 and General Haig on July 30. Mr. Fulbright said that he hoped General Haig would be the last witness.