

Senate-White House Fight

Kissinger Role Attacked

Washington

Senator Stuart Symington (Dem-Mo.) got into a fight with the White House yesterday by claiming that Henry A. Kissinger has become Secretary of State in everything but title.

In a Senate speech, Symington said the Presidential adviser is "the most powerful man in the Nixon Administration next to the President himself" and that an appearance by Secretary of State William P. Rogers before a congressional committee is thus "rather an empty exercise."

"It's rather sad wherever you go in the afternoon or the evening around this town to hear the very able secretary of state laughed at," Symington said.

REACTION

Through his press secretary, President Nixon attacked Symington as being "misleading, totally inaccurate and unfair."

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler summoned reporters to say: "President Nixon has the utmost confidence in the Secretary of State and in the judgment of the Secretary of State."

"The President wanted me to say also to you the Secre-



STUART SYMINGTON
He joined battle

tary of State is the President's chief adviser on foreign affairs and he will remain that. And people who think otherwise are misleading themselves and others."

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon went on to say that he knows better than anyone the contribution Rogers has made to foreign policy and that "he has complete confidence in the secretary and his judgment."

ATTEMPT

News men sought to pin down whether Rogers or Kissinger is considered the



HENRY KISSINGER
How important?

pre-eminent foreign policy adviser to the President and whether Mr. Nixon had expressed any concern about a possible rivalry.

Ziegler pretty much evaded the point. Ziegler redefined Rogers as the chief adviser but he said also that Kissinger was indeed in very close consultation on reparation of last week's annual report on foreign policy.

The press secretary fended off several questions by telling newsmen to ask them at a presidential press conference. He said there would be one quite soon.

Ever since the Nixon Administration took office more than two years ago, there has been speculation that Kissinger was more influential with the President than in helping form foreign policy.

COMPLAINT

Symington made his comments about Kissinger, a former professor of government at Harvard, in complaining about the difficulty the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has had in getting information from the White House.

Symington complained bitterly of "this Kissinger syndrome, this unprecedented concentration of authority into the hands of a man who consistently briefs various groups and individuals on matters of domestic and foreign policy" but does not appear before Congress.

Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem-Mark.) chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of which Symington is a member, plans to introduce a bill that would force officials such as Kissinger to testify before his panel in open session.

A.P. & U.P.