

# McGovern Declines

## Kissinger Briefings

U.P. & A.P.

Youngstown, Ohio

Senator George S. McGovern said yesterday he had rejected an offer by White House adviser Henry Kissinger for a secret briefing on Vietnam negotiations. He said he could learn more from good newsmen than he could from the White House.

"I've talked to Henry a number of times," the Democratic presidential candidate told newsmen on his

first day of a four-day Midwest campaign swing. "The conversations have been interesting but they haven't shed any light."

McGovern, holding a news conference in this steel town, said former Attorney General Ramsey Clark might have made a "tactical error" and a mistake in "judgment and taste" by criticizing American policy

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while he was visiting recently in North Vietnam.

But he said it was "silly" of former Attorney General John Mitchell to call Clark a "dupe" of the Communists, and he still felt Clark was the kind of man he would like to have in his cabinet.

### OFFER

McGovern said he appreciated President Nixon's "generous" offer of a Kissinger briefing. But he said the only reason he could think of for such a briefing was if he were to go abroad and he said he had no plans for such a trip.

Official briefings "usually go wide of the mark," McGovern said. He said he usually found out more by "following the dispatches of good newsmen." He said his latest meeting with Kissinger was about two months ago and he learned nothing that he had not been told in official administration briefings.

McGovern said he would send Paul Warnke, a former defense official and an adviser in the McGovern campaign, to meet with Kissinger and any other administration officials who want to brief the Democratic candidate.

### BREAK-IN

McGovern also said yesterday that President Nixon is "at least indirectly" responsible for the June 17 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington.

He said the action "ought

to disturb every American, because if the leadership of the President's campaign will snoop and invade and wiretap on the Democratic National Committee, what reason is there to believe it won't do that to the rest of us."

The Democratic presidential nominee's statement was his strongest to date on the incident in which five men, some with links with the Nixon campaign organization, were caught inside the Democratic offices in Washington's Watergate Hotel.

### CHECK

Since then, a \$25,000 campaign check has been traced to the bank account of one of the arrested men, Bernard Barker.

At a news conference on the first day of a planned four-day Midwest campaign swing, McGovern referred to "wire tapping like Mr. Nixon's crew did."

Asked if that meant he held the President responsible for the break-in, he replied. "I lay it at least indirectly to him." Mr. Nixon and Republican party officials have denied knowledge of the break-in.

McGovern said the \$25,000 campaign check linked the arrested men "about as close as you can get to the Nixon management."

He said he believes it is "an open question" whether former Attorney General John Mitchell quit as Mr. Nixon's campaign director because he requested it, as Mitchell said, or because of the bugging incident.