

KISSINGER REBUTS NIXON ON WIRETAP

Denies Again Before Senate Panel That He Requested Eavesdropping Action

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WASHINGTON, June 7—Secretary of State Kissinger said today that President Nixon was apparently under a "misapprehension" in reportedly suggesting that he had requested the wiretapping of Government officials and journalists beginning in 1969.

Repeatedly denying that he had initiated the wiretapping of the officials and newsmen, Mr. Kissinger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "I will stand by what I said before this committee" last September when he was extensively questioned

on the wiretap issue at his confirmation hearings.

The latest round of questions arose over information provided the House Judiciary Committee, which has been conducting the impeachment investigation of Mr. Nixon. That committee was given a tape recording of a conversation between Mr. Nixon and John W. Dean 3d, then the White House counsel, on Feb. 28, 1973.

In a passage that as Mr. Kissinger noted, was marked by garbles, the President was quoted as saying to Mr. Dean: "Henry [unintelligible] . . . at least I know not because I know that I know that he asked that it be done. And I assumed that it was. Lake and Halperin. They're both bad. But the taps were, too. They never helped us."

Former Staff Member

Anthony Lake and Morton Halperin were former members of the staff of the National Security Council and were among the 17 officials and newsmen whose phones were known to have been wiretapped.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, noted the President's reported comment and said that it seemed to contradict Mr. Kissinger's comments to the committee last September that he had only supplied names of those who had access to information that had leaked to the press and had not initiated the taps.

Mr. Kissinger said that he "had the impression" that the President's comments were "based on a misapprehension."

Mr. Muskie then asked, "Did you originate the recommendation for the wiretapping program?"

Mr. Kissinger replied, "I did not."

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, said that since the Foreign Relations Committee had conducted the original investigation of Mr. Kissinger's involvement in the wiretapping and decided that he was qualified to become Secretary of State, "he's entitled to know whether this committee says yes or no to whether it believes he's told the whole story."

He said that at a future meeting of the committee he would propose that the committee look into the matter, but an aide said that Mr. Javits did not know whether to ask for new hearings or not.

Mr. Kissinger seemed more relaxed in discussing the latest wiretap matters before the Senators than he did yesterday at a news conference, when he was visibly annoyed at questions raising doubts about his steadfast denials of any involvement in originating the taps.