

Kissinger Rousts Another Press Aide

Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger yesterday "consumed another press officer," in the language of State Department insiders.

The State Department, through a surviving spokesman, confirmed the impending transfer of John F. King, 45, a long-time news specialist and director of the Office of Press Relations since Kissinger became secretary in September, 1973.

King's involuntary shift from the news office to a still-undesignated post in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, however, is no wholesale "purge" of the news office, officials insisted.

The departure of two other associates in the same of-

office, Paul J. Hare and Irwin Pernick, was described by one insider as "a racing for the exits — long planned."

Kissinger, although the most articulate official in the government, is noted as the most difficult when it comes to permitting a subordinate to speak in his behalf.

"He's got this obsession," said one aide, "that nobody can say anything about anything except him."

A growing dilemma for the State Department is that Kissinger's constant travel frequently leaves the department tongue-tied in discussing essentials of foreign policy apart from what Kissinger is saying abroad.

The department is left with equally unsatisfactory choices: it can attempt to

follow the detailed instructions Kissinger often cables about what it should say from thousands of miles away, even though the questions asked often do not fit the answers he supplies; or it can stand mute before the unanticipated questions; or the spokesman can limply say he can't answer until the secretary returns.

The result often makes the department look foolishly hamstrung.

"I don't think it's fair to lay all the blame on him," a Kissinger loyalist retorted yesterday, "even acknowledging he is a difficult man to work for . . . Maybe we don't have the right men in the job . . . It needs a sense of being able 'to read him' and to understand him."

Washington Post