SEChronicle Dixy Lee Ray Tells Why She Quit

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Dr. Dixy Lee Ray told a Senate subcommittee yesterday that she quit as an assistant secretary of state because she was cut out of policy decisions and could not get sufficient staff personnel to do her job.

Testifying before the Senate subcommittee on oceans and international environment, she said she saw Secretary of State Henry Kissinger only once — the day she was sworn in to head the department of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

"I only asked to see the secretary once," said Dr. Ray, the former head of the old Atomic Energy Commission. "I was told I had to submit a briefing paper before I could get an appointment. It was a personal matter. I was going to tell him of my problems and that I was considering resignation. I knew that his briefing paper would be mimeographed and distributed around the building and I wasn't going to have that happen."

Senator Claiborne Pell (Dem-R.1), the subcommittee chairman, said he called the hearing because he wiscohearned and the collection on how policy is made in the State Department. Pell was an author of the bill establishing the department she headed.

"When the secretary said in a speech that the United States was prepared to engage in large-scale research and development for energy with Japan that was the first that I ever heard of it," Dr. Ray said. "That's how policy is made at the State Department."

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