

Parade

Walter Scott's personality

parade

PI

WXPost

JUL 14 1974

Want the facts? Want to learn the truth about p
York, N.Y. 10017. Your full name will be used

Q. In my admiration of Henry Kissinger, I stand second to no man. But will you tell me, please, how a man of his high honor, character, and wisdom could have had six of his closest colleagues on the National Security Council—men like Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Daniel Davidson, Anthony Lake, Morton Halperin and others—wiretapped by the FBI between 1969-71? —T. T., Cambridge, Mass.

A. In 1969 Henry Kissinger was a "new boy" and understandably a somewhat insecure one in the Nixon Administration. Because of his German accent, for example, he was not permitted by the White House Palace Guard to speak over radio or television. He was disliked by Haldeman and Ehrlichman, probably because he was so essential and brilliant on the foreign policy front. He was also a victim of the Presidential affinity for revenge and suspicion, a dangerous, unhealthy virus which contaminated the ambience of the executive branch. Kissinger felt unwisely and unnecessarily that he had to win brownie points and prove himself an unquestioning Nixon team player. He therefore offered up the names of his colleagues to the longtime head of the FBI, the late J. Edgar Hoover. To friends he has since admitted: "It was a mistake. I shouldn't have done it. Certainly I would not do it again."