



A New Era for Henry Kissinger

SEE (Post version in Ford Ad)

Joseph Kraft

THE WANING of Henry Kissinger's power is now proclaimed in unmistakable fashion by Senate voting on the Foreign Aid Bill. The trouble is not trivial stuff like attacks from the press or snide cracks from barons in President Ford's entourage.

The difficulty is that Kissinger's central technique — the technique of the secret good guy — has been shattered by events. That technique depended on something that can no longer be — the presence of Richard Nixon in the White House.

The marks of Senate rebellion against Kissinger abound in votes on the aid bill. Virtually every issue ever used against the Secretary of State in the press was confirmed by Senate majorities.

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TAKE HIS tilting toward Turkey in the conflict with Greece over Cyprus. The Senate twice supported amendments which would cut off aid to Turkey. When the President declared he would veto the measure because it interfered with Kissinger's efforts to foster a settlement on Cyprus, Senator Vance Hartke told of a speech by the Greek Foreign Minister, George Mavros, to the effect that no progress was being made in the Cyprus negotiations anyway.

The immediate cause for the sudden outburst of feeling in the Senate was frustration. For years senators had subordinated their real feelings on Vietnam, Chile and Greece. But to say that is only to pose another question — why had so many sen-

ators, and others as well, checked their feelings for so long? At that point there enters Kissinger's secret good guy technique.

The secret good guy technique finds its most vivid expression in the way Kissinger has habitually dealt with those of us in the press. From his earliest days in Washington he was skilled at making us believe that he was the only enlightened and sensible official in an administration full of unbelievable horrors.

That same technique was applied by Kissinger in dealing with Congress and various blocs of opinion in the country. A modified version of the approach expresses Kissinger's essential negotiating technique.

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I DO NOT mean to disparage these techniques as they have worked wonders. Kissinger has in fact been able to achieve agreements few thought were possible, in the Near East and with China, Russia and North Vietnam.

But with Mr. Nixon gone, Kissinger has no bad guy against whom to play secret good guy. Nobody can believe that President Ford is the villain.

The real question is whether Kissinger has the stomach to hang in there when he is only a Secretary of State like other Secretaries of State. For my own part I hope he does for it is hard to see how President Ford can manage foreign policy without him.

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