

Congressmen Ask Probe Of Kissinger's 'Blackmail'

Washington

Eleven House members asked the Justice Department yesterday to look into a charge that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger attempted to blackmail congressmen.

The 11, all members of the defunct House Intelligence Committee, made the request in response to a New York Times column by William Safire, who said that U.S. intelligence officials came across information about South Korean bribes to some members of Congress and that Kissinger, who knew about the information, did not report it to President Ford.

When the committee, headed by Representative Otis Pike (Dem.-N.Y.), threatened in August, 1975, to subpoena Kissinger and other high

ranking administration officials as part of its inquiry into CIA cover operations, Safire said, the administration told unidentified congressional leaders of its secret information, implying blackmail if the Pike committee was allowed to pursue its investigation.

Pike said Safire's account as was "the strongest allegation of corruption within the Congress printed by a responsible columnist in a responsible newspaper which we can ever recall."

The Kissinger subpoenas were never issued and shortly after that the Pike committee ended its life with a report on its findings, which the House ordered kept secret.

Safire said William Hyland and Juanita Moody, National Security Agency staff workers, could docu-

ment the allegations of administration blackmail as well as corruption on the part of at least 40 members of Congress.

"We find these allegations so damning to the Congress that we believe they must be investigated and pushed with every resource at your disposal," Pike and his colleagues said in a letter to Attorney General Griffin Bell.

In addition to Pike, members signing the letter were Morgan Murphy, (Dem.-Ill.); James Johnson (Rep.-Colo.); William Lehman (Dem.-Fla.); Robert McClory (Rep.-Ill.); David Treen (Rep.-L.A.); Les Aspin (Dem.-Wis.); Ronald Dellums (Dem.-Calif.); Robert Giaimo (Dem.-Conn.); Robert Kasten (Rep.-Wis.); and Dale Milford (Dem.-Tex.).

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