

Kissinger Saw the Tap Reports

Washington

Henry A. Kissinger confirmed yesterday that he has seen summaries from several wiretaps placed in 1969 and 1970, but said he had not asked that they be installed nor specifically approved them in advance.

Confirming in detail for the first time his involvement with the taps, which have become intertwined with the Watergate - Pentagon Papers imbroglio, Kissinger said in an interview that the first became aware of the taps in mid-1969, when summaries of the recorded conversations began crossing his desk.

Only a relatively small number of reports came to his attention, he said.

Last week the government disclosed at the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles that the chief defendant in the trial, Daniel Ellsberg, had been overheard speaking on the tapped phone of Dr. Morton Halperin. At the time, Halperin was a member of Kissinger's staff.

Asked whether he had taken any action when he discovered that Halperin's phone was being tapped, Kissinger declined comment.

Saturday, Kissinger hinted at a White House briefing that he had seen the wiretap summaries, but he refused to answer clarifying questions pending yesterday report by William D. Ruckelshaus, acting director of the FBI.

Kissinger said he had conferred once or twice early in 1969 with the late J. Edgar

Hoover, then the director of the FBI. At that time, he said, he told Hoover of his "very great concern" that national security information be fully safeguarded.

Kissinger said he took no notes of the conversations and could remember only some details, but declared that he was certain that he did not "ask for any particular form of investigation or ask that any particular individual be investigated."

Kissinger made a point of saying that only legally authorized agencies carried out the undercover work. He said that he had nothing to do with the White House "plumbers" — a special group set up to plug the "leaks" of newsmen of classified information, even though his office was responsible for the data.

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