

KISSINGER VIEWED SUMMARY OF TAPS

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Says Reports of an Aide's
Telephone Calls Began
Coming to Him in '69

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WASHINGTON, May 14—

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

Confirming in detail for the first time his awareness of the wiretapping that has been connected to the Watergate and Pentagon papers cases, Mr. Kissinger said in an interview that he first knew of the taps in mid-1969, when summaries of recorded conversations began crossing his desk. Only a relatively small number of reports came to his attention, he said.

Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security had not even been indirectly associated with the case until last week, when the Government disclosed at the Pentagon papers trial in Los Angeles that the chief defendant in the trial, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, had been overheard speaking on the tapped phone of Dr. Morton H. Halperin. At the time, Dr. Halperin was a member of Mr. Kissinger's staff.

Taken Any Action?

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

On Saturday, Mr. Kissinger hinted at a White House briefing that he had seen the summaries of the wiretaps, but he refused to answer further questions pending a report by William D. Ruckelshaus, acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Ruckelshaus made public his report this afternoon.

Mr. Kissinger said that he had conferred once or twice early in 1969 with the late J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I. At this time, he said, he told Mr. Hoover of his "very great concern" that national security information be fully safeguarded.

Although Mr. Kissinger took no notes on the conversations with the F.B.I. chief and could remember only some details, the President's adviser said that he was certain that he did not "ask for any particular form of investigation or ask that any particular individual be investigated." His expressions were more general, he said.

Authorized Agencies Only

Mr. Kissinger emphasized that only authorized agencies, acting under the supervision of the Attorney General, as then required by law, carried out 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 classified information, even though his office was responsible for the data.

Two of the "plumbers," G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, were convicted in the Watergate burglary last June. Another, David R. Young Jr., formerly worked for Mr. Kissinger but was detached from his staff in July, 1971, while the Presidential adviser was in China.

Mr. Kissinger said that as far as he had known until recently, Mr. Young had been working on a study of classification procedures. He said that he had not even heard the word "plumbers" until recently when it began appearing in news accounts.

There was no co-ordination between the "plumbers" and his office, he continued. Today, The Washington Star-News reported that Mr. Nixon had personally interceded with Mr. Hoover to win F.B.I. co-operation with the "plumbers."