

Rogers Resigns-- Kissinger Chosen

San Clemente

President Nixon accepted with "personal regret" the resignation of Secretary of State William P. Rogers yesterday and named Henry A. Kissinger to succeed him at the State Department.

Kissinger's nomination will be submitted to the Senate after the congressional recess ends on September 5.

The Foreign Relations Committee is expected to question him closely on his role in wiretapping his own aides for national security purposes and on the secret bombing in Cambodia.

Mr. Nixon recalled that he and Rogers had "weathered together" for two decades and he hoped that Rogers would continue to offer counsel and friendship, although he is leaving the administration September 3, after 56 months.

"It is with deep sense of not only personal regret, but official regret that I accept the resignation of William Rogers as Secretary of State," Mr. Nixon said at the opening of his first news conference in five months.

Rogers is the only member of Mr. Nixon's first cabinet still in his original post. George P. Shultz, who was labor secretary in the first

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administration, is now treasury secretary.

In introducing Rogers along with other cabinet nominees to the American people in a television program in December of 1968, Mr. Nixon said Rogers is "best when the going gets hardest . . . A superb negotiator."

But during his service, there were recurring rumors that Mr. Nixon was displeased with Rogers and wanted a more "dynamic" Secretary of State.

Those reports were frequently accompanied by

speculation that Kissinger would replace him.

Administration officials who have been critical of Rogers said in Washington before Mr. Nixon's announcement that the "last straw" so far as the President was concerned came at Rogers' news conference on Monday.

Discussing Watergate, Rogers said: "I believe it is important for the United States not to become so obsessed with security matters that laws are freely violated. I think extreme caution should be exercised before laws are violated in the name of national security."

However, Rogers told newsmen in a brief meeting following Mr. Nixon's announcement that "I would have left whether there had been a Watergate or not."

Rogers also had complained that he was so far removed from Indochina policy decisions that he "knew nothing" of the secret bombing of Cambodia, although it began shortly after the first inauguration.

LETTER

Rogers, 50, who will return to the private practice of corporate law, submitted his resignation "with a bit of sadness" in a letter to Mr. Nixon last Thursday.

Rogers said he had accepted the post, expecting to leave after the first term. "However, because of several pressing matters, particularly in the closing phase of our involvement in the war in Vietnam and uncertain cease-fire in the Middle East . . . it was agreed that I would stay on for a while."

Kissinger, a former Harvard professor, has been the President's national security adviser and principal architect of administration policy in Indochina, Russia and China since 1969, a matter sure to be raised in the Senate.

President Nixon named Kissinger to serve in what amounts to a super-cabinet post, in which Kissinger will retain his extraordinarily influential position as assistant for national security, in addition to becoming secretary of state.

Kissinger has won high marks for carrying out Mr. Nixon's missions to China and Russia and attempts to negotiate a Vietnam peace settlement, but he also has played a role in the secret bombing of Cambodia and the wiretapping of his own aides on the staff of the National Security Council.

Kissinger, born in Germany, emigrated to the U.S. in 1938 to escape the Nazis. If confirmed, he will be the first naturalized American citizen to hold the position of Secretary of State, and also the first Jew to hold that office.

There had been speculation for months that Rogers was on his way out, coupled with rumors that he was to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court when the next vacancy occurred, or was to be appointed to the long-vacant post of U.S. ambassador to Moscow.

Rogers had declined to say whether he would leave government, but firmly denied the Supreme Court and Moscow rumors.



AP Wirephoto

SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS
He relaxed yesterday in his office



AP Wirephoto

HENRY A. KISSINGER
A wider role

United Press