

Rogers Unaware Of Taps

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Outgoing Secretary of State William P. Rogers said yesterday he did not know about and would not have approved the reported wire-tapping of three of his top aides between 1969 and 1971 as part of a secret White House effort to stop news leaks.

Rogers' comment through a State Department spokesman seemed to put further distance between him and President Nixon, who has acknowledged authorizing wiretaps on telephones of some government officials and journalists to halt publication of "highly sensitive foreign policy initiatives ... which were obviously based on leaks."

Last Monday, two days before Nixon announced Rogers' resignation and appointment of Henry A. Kissinger to succeed him on Sept. 3, Rogers told a news conference the United States must not be "so obsessed with security matters that laws are freely violated" at the expense of individual rights.

Rogers commented yesterday in response to questions about a New York Times report that the wiretaps authorized by Nixon were placed on 13 government officials, including William H. Sullivan, then deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia; Richard F. Pedersen, then counselor to the State Department, and Richard L. Sneider, now Sullivan's successor.