

# Kissinger's Role in Taps Called Minor

## Washington

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott said yesterday that Secretary of State-designate Henry A. Kissinger played only a routine role in the FBI wiretapping of his assistants, and predicted his confirmation.

The Pennsylvania Senator said in a television interview that he is confident Attorney General Elliott L. Richardson and deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus will be able to convince the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of this at a closed session today.

Kissinger's nomination ran into a snag last week when members of the Foreign Relations Committee questioned the FBI wiretapping of 13 government officials and four Washington reporters from 1969 to 1971.

The wiretapping was undertaken to ascertain the source of leaks of national security information, and some members of the Senate committee said they want access to a still-secret FBI report on the eavesdropping.

A spokesman for the Justice Department, which has declined to make public the FBI report, said yesterday it had not been decided yet whether Richardson will produce the report at today's meeting.

"The role of Mr. Kissinger was merely to suggest the names of those on his staff who had access to such information," Scott said.

The FBI was responsible for the investigation itself."

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