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Letters to the Editor

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Why the Senate Should Reject Kissinger

To the Editor:

It seems a foregone conclusion that Henry Kissinger will be confirmed as Secretary of State by the Senate. But I am convinced that there are decisive reasons for refusing to confirm his nomination.

Our country has had enough of power politics on the part of the White House. It has had far too much of the playing of such politics by methods of concealment and deceit. In the use of such methods Mr. Kissinger has been a willing collaborator. He cooperated in the prolongation of the war in Indochina under the pretense of speeding its end. He—and this seems to me unforgivable—connived in the official lying and deception concerning the bombing of Cambodia. As a member of the National Security Council he knew of and must have approved falsifying reports of the savage attacks upon a country which had tried hard to remain neutral. I do not think a man who has helped so to deceive the American people should be entrusted by their representatives with high office.

Mr. Kissinger probably cares little for the people. His heroes are Metter-

nich and Castlereagh, who, after the defeat of Napoleon, sketched the scheme for the diplomatic manipulation of Europe. In that scheme the people of the nations whose fate was being decided played no part.

Thus it may be natural for Mr. Kissinger to cooperate with a President to whom the American people appear as "children." But it may seem strange to some of us that a man whose family fled from an evil dictator now participates in the attempt to establish that sort of élitist control which so easily becomes the prelude to dictatorship. Henry Kissinger has shown no understanding whatsoever of what the politics of democracy should be.

It is for these reasons that I think Mr. Kissinger's nomination should not be confirmed. That he is clever no one doubts. But what we sorely need now in those who are to lead us is honesty, integrity, a sense of morality rather than expediency, and that he possess these qualities is by no means so evident.

PENNINGTON HAILE
Norwich, Vt., Sept. 4, 1973