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Senate OKs Kissinger's Nomination

Washington

The Senate yesterday, approved the nomination of Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State, 78 to 7, after a desultory debate that had little to do with foreign policy.

A swearing-in ceremony is scheduled today in the East Room of the White House, to be witnessed by President Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew, members of the Cabinet, and the diplomatic corps, congressional leaders, high State Department officials, members of the National Security Council, and Kissinger's family and friends.

Kisinger came to America at the age of 15 in 1938, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany. His accession to the top cabinet post was evidence, Senator Jacob K. Javits (Rep-N.Y.) said, of "the miracle of U.S. history... a magnificent testimony that we believe in what we say."

Only a few Senators were on the floor for the debate that preceded the vote. Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem - Ark.) expressed disappointment at the poor turnout. While there had never been the "slightest doubt" that Kis-

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singer would be confirmed, Fulbright observed, he had hoped there would be opportunity for debate on the nation's foreign policy.

CONCERN

Fullbright expressed concern that Detente with the Soviet Union was "unravelling," and that the Senate was partly to blame because one of its members had introduced a resolution that could inhibit a relaxation of tensions with Moscow. He was referring to the amendment introduced by Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem-Wash.) that would prohibit extending most-favored-nation tariff treatment and investment guarantees to any nation limiting free emigration.

Opposition to the nomination was based on lingering dissatisfaction with Kissinger's role in the wiretapping of 13 government officials and four newsmen for "national security" reasons and, in the case of Senator George McGovern (Dem S.D.)) on a foreign policy that he said "makes the needs of our own society secondary to the demands of a growing arsenal for adventures abroad."

Senator Gaylord Nelson (Dem-Wis.), in voting "no," said, "I cannot support anyone for high and influential political office who does not have a strong conviction and a clearly delineated position on the issue of government intrusion upon privacy by wiretap, bugs and personal surveillance."

The Foreign Relations Committee had reported to the Senate that Kissinger's role in the wiretapping not constitute grounds to bar his confirmation." But it said it found "very little, if any justification" for the national security taps undertaken during Kissinger's tenure as the President's national security adviser. "At the time of the surveil-lance," the report noted, "adequate standards of probable cause were not applied and adequate procedural safeguards with respect to authorizing and terminating the taps were not observed."

RECORD

An examination of the wiretapping record evoked harsh criticism. "The com-

mittee was deeply concerned," the report said, "over the pattern of casual and arbitrary infringement of individual rights which this inquiry brought to light."

Before casting his negative vote, Senator Harold Hughes (Dem-Iowa), expressed reservations about Kissinger's "insensitivity to individual liberties" and his "power broker" philosophy of international relations marked by a "chilling, chessboard view of the world."

The seven Senators voting against Kissinger were James C. Abourezk (Dem-S.D.); Floyd Haskell (Dem-Colo.); Jessie Helms (Rep-N.C.); Lowell Weicker (Rep-Conn.); Hughes, McGovern

and Nelson.

California's Democratic Senators, John Tunney and Alan Cranston voted for confirmation.

Even Kissinger's supporters expressed reservations about the administration's four and a half year record in foreign policy. Senator Edmund S. Muskie (Dem-Maine), while calling Kissinger "extraordinarily well qualified," said the Indochina policy should go down as "one of the adminstration's principal failures." Muskie also said that the "secrecy and surprise" of summitry not only had "theatrical" qualities, but that the cost in relations with America's allies had been "serious and possibly dangerous."

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