

Special to The New York Times
LONDON, Dec. 11 — At the hearing, Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, asked Mr. Kissinger if he had had any involvement with the White House plumbers. Mr. Young Jr., his former Security Council aide, was engaged in clandestine activities of domestic affairs in the White House, "at that time or any subsequent time that he was to be requested to engage in illegal activities?"

In a brief statement aboard his Air Force plane flying between Brussels and London, Mr. Kissinger stuck exactly to what the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asked him about the plumbers and Mr. Young.

He was responding to men's questions about the New York Times article that had played a major role in setting up the plumbers, which was created by news leaks and was possible for the break-in offices of Dr. Daniel Callahan, a former psychiatrist in New York City in 1971.

He said that Mr. Young had

transferred to Mr. Ehrlichman's staff either on his own initiative or on Mr. Ehrlichman's. He said that he had been told that Mr. Young would work on a project "dealing with declassification procedures," and "I had no contact with David Young either by telephone or in my office or in any other way after he left my staff, although I continued to have high regard for him."

"In short, I did not know either from him or anyone else about the existence of the 'plumbers' as I said, by this, or any other name, or about his activities in connection with internal security matters," he added. "I think it was a deplorable event."

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

The Times said that Mr. Kissinger not only knew about Mr. Young's involvement in the undercover operation but also was involved in discussions about his joining the operation.

Wide British Publicity

The assertions in The Times articles have been widely publicized in the British press, and some aides to Mr. Kissinger expressed concern that he would be continually harassed on the subject by newsmen throughout the trip, which goes on to the Middle East from here.

Mr. Kissinger believes that his denials were so positive when he appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee on Sept. 7 for his confirmation as Secretary of State that he would do no more than refer questioners back to his testimony.