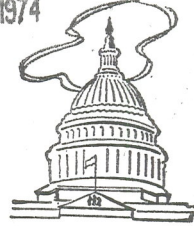


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Henry Kissinger's Historic Tantrum



Mary McGrory

Washington

HENRY KISSINGER'S tantrum is proving one of the most successful in the history of the art.

The entire globe is wringing its hands and offering him ice-cream, lollipops, a trip to the zoo, and even a pony if he will just get up off the floor and promise not to run away.

Kissinger's dreadful scene in Salzburg had the desired effect on the U. S. Senate, which went into a paroxysm of remorse and contrition for its part in the affair. It bears an especially heavy burden because it provided the forum at which he may have committed perjury — his confirmation hearings last September.

It is the purpose of a tantrum to make onlookers feel guilty and the Senate could hardly be more stricken. Fifty-two members have signed a resolution affirming their belief in the secretary's "integrity and veracity." It remains only for the group to endorse "failure to testify accurately and fully before a Senate committee," which is the new euphemism for lying, in case it turns out that Kissinger indeed was the instigator of the 17 wire-taps.

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THE CLIMATE is not one in which a Senate Foreign Relations Committee can proceed to the inquiry which Kissinger has demanded. If the Senators really want to get to the bottom of it, they might prove it by requesting from Rodino the new documents.

The secretary's wrath may have been

Arthur Hoppe is on a week's vacation.

programmed. He began his threats to resign privately almost immediately after his disastrous homecoming news conference. It may have been fed on the long plane ride to Europe by his chief, the President, the only person in sight who stands to gain from the explosion.

His idolized secretary is now caught up in the Watergate drama. And he is making effectively, although much more narrowly, the same lament which the President has been peddling for two years. How can you talk of bugs when I have brought you a generation of peace? The double standard has been introduced. If Kissinger is to be forgiven because he stilled the guns on the Golan Heights, should not the man who sent him there be excused, too?

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KISSINGER may be angry with himself for not "toughing it out" last September. Had he known then what he knows now of the fervor of his fans, he might have said, "I did it and I'm glad," or "I did it and I'm sorry." Either way he could have weathered the consequences.

Kissinger, threatened with the loss of his superman cape, stamped his foot. It was heard round the world. He may be mollified. And he must realize from the reaction that no matter what the Senate Foreign Relations Committee turns up, they would hate to add to his embarrassment, which he has elevated to being "incompatible with the dignity of the U.S." What he means, of course, is his own dignity, and he has long since convinced most of them, along with himself, that the two are indivisible.