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**KISSINGER BACKED
BY RUCKELSHAUS
IN WIRETAP CASE**

**Former Acting Head of F.B.I.
Familiar With the Inquiry
Doubts Any Deception**

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 16—William D. Ruckelshaus, former Acting Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, expressed his support today for Secretary of State Kissinger's contention that he was not responsible for initiating wiretaps of 13 Government officials and four newsmen from 1969 to 1971.

Appearing on the CBS Inc. program, "Face the Nation," Mr. Ruckelshaus said that Mr. Kissinger's role in the controversial wiretap program, "as best as I've been able to determine, is pretty much as he's described it."

Mr. Ruckelshaus, who also served as Deputy Attorney General until his dismissal for refusing to discharge Archibald Cox as special Watergate prosecutor, investigated the wiretapping of the 17 individuals last year and had access to all the F.B.I. documents on the case.

Mr. Kissinger last week threatened to resign unless his reputation was cleared by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of any allegations that he had deceived the panel during his confirmation hearings last fall in describing his role in the wiretapping.

F.B.I. Reports Noted

Press reports in recent weeks, some quoting sources on the House Judiciary Committee considering the impeachment of President Nixon, said that F.B.I. reports in 1969 asserted that Mr. Kissinger had asked for wiretaps on certain individuals.

The F.B.I. documents seemed to contradict Mr. Kissinger's testimony to the Foreign Relations Committee when he said he had not initiated the wiretapping but had only complied with a Presidential directive to provide names of those who might have had access to leaked information.

The Foreign Relations Committee, after several days of open and closed door hearings, including testimony by Mr. Ruckelshaus and Elliot L. Richardson, who was Attorney General at the time, said then that it had found nothing to bar Mr. Kissinger from confirmation as Secretary of State.

At Mr. Kissinger's request, the Foreign Relations Committee has now begun a new study to see if Mr. Kissinger perjured himself last September. It received all the F.B.I.

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wiretap documents last Friday. Mr. Ruckelshaus, who had studied all the F.B.I. documents in question, was asked today about the apparent discrepancy between the F.B.I. reports and Mr. Kissinger's contention that he had not initiated the wiretaps.

"On the basis of your knowledge of this, would you give Mr. Kissinger the exoneration that he's now asking?" Mr. Ruckelshaus was asked.

"I think I would," he replied. "I don't think that the controversy really is as sharp between the F.B.I. and Mr. Kissinger as the records and his statements make it appear.

"And I think his role, as best

I've been able to determine, is pretty much as he's described it."

Mr. Ruckelshaus said that Mr. Kissinger complained to Mr. Nixon in 1969 about leaks "that were very disturbing to him in his conduct of the foreign policy."

As a result of this, Mr. Ruckelshaus said, Mr. Nixon, together with the Attorney General, John W. Mitchell, and the F.B.I. director, J. Edgar Hoover, decided on a program to stop leaks, part of which "was to tap certain individuals who had access to the information."

Mr. Kissinger's role was to supply names to the F.B.I., Mr. Ruckelshaus said.

"So in the sense that he

supplied the names that were tapped, he initiated it," he said. "But his definition of initiation is that it wasn't his idea to tap; he simply complained about the leaks."

Mr. Ruckelshaus suggested that "in the process of supplying those names, it may well have been described in F.B.I. memoranda that this was a request coming from the National Security Council or Mr. Kissinger or General Haig on his staff, requesting a wiretap on a certain individual." Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. was Mr. Kissinger's deputy in 1969 and now is the White House chief of staff.

Asked about an F.B.I. summary report, described in The New York Times last week,

that said that either Mr. Kissinger or General Haig had initiated wiretaps, Mr. Ruckelshaus said that "some of the documents that are dribbling out of the House Judiciary Committee are being used for purposes for which they were never prepared."

He said that the purpose of such F.B.I. summaries was not to determine what Mr. Kissinger's role was nor was it to determine who initiated individual taps. Rather, he said, it was to get an over-all view of the taps themselves.

"And I think it's really unfair to take those reports in that context and then apply them to a statement that he's made that had nothing to do with the particular context in

which the reports were made," Mr. Ruckelshaus said.

Mr. Ruckelshaus said that he expected "more surprises" in the Watergate investigation, but he refused to give his reasons, other than to say, "There is information that I'm aware of that has not as yet become public."

He said he was not sure if the House Judiciary Committee had the evidence. His job was to gather it as head of the F.B.I. and turn it over to the special prosecutor's office.

Cox Denies Leaks

PALO ALTO, Calif., June 16 (UPI)—Archibald Cox, the former Special Watergate prosecutor, said today that wiretap charges being leveled against

Secretary of State Kissinger were similar to those leveled against others in the "heyday" of McCarthyism.

Mr. Cox, who delivered the graduation address at Stanford University's 83rd annual commencement exercises, criticized the news media and called for an end to unsubstantiated news leaks on Watergate related incidents.

"We read no editorials condemning ex parte accusation 'leaks' to the press and judgments without true adversary proceedings," Mr. Cox said. "Are they now any less unfair than they were 20 years ago? Procedural fairness does not depend upon whose ox was gored."