

A Report on Kissinger's Secret

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is said to have told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in secret testimony last fall that either he or H.R. Haldeman, President Nixon's former chief of staff, must have initiated wiretaps on 13 government officials and four reporters.

According to a memorandum prepared by a lawyer on the House Judiciary Committee staff, the Senate committee asked Kissinger whether General Alexander M. Haig Jr., his former deputy who is now White House chief of staff, "might have initiated these taps on his own."

Kissinger, the memoran-

dum delates, replied. "It would be inconceivable to me that Haig would go off on his own, so it would have to be they are on instructions from me or Mr. Haldeman."

The memorandum goes on to note, however, that Kissinger was asked later in his secret testimony whether he had personally approved the wiretaps, and he replied:

"Now, I would not have remembered that I personally — that it was at my personal direction and I think again this may well have been an FBI euphemism."

Kissinger was apparently referring to memorandums written by the late J. Edgar Hoover, the former director

of the FBI, and other bureau officials that state outright that Kissinger had suggested the wiretaps.

The heretofore secret testimony by Kissinger came during confirmation hearings on his nomination to be secretary of state.

In his testimony to the committee made public at the time and in subsequent statements, Kissinger has insisted that he did not originate the wiretap program, but carried out a White House decision and supplied the names of those who were to be wiretapped.

When asked about the apparent discrepancy between Kissinger's assertions and FBI reports that said Kissin-

ger had initiated the taps, William D. Ruckelshaus, former acting FBI director, said on Sunday:

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

The judiciary committee staff memorandum was prepared June 12 by William P. Dixon, a Democratic staff member, at the request of Democratic members.

Other memorandums written by Dixon were covertly released to the press.

The June 12 memorandum was made available to the New York Times by a Re-

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publican committee member who has generally supported the President in the impeachment inquiry. White House officials have attempted to discredit the committee in recent days because of leaks of confidential information.

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