

# Kissinger Reportedly Told

WASHINGTON, June 19 Secretary of State 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 17 Government officials and reporters.

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

Mr. Kissinger, the memorandum relates, 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 Mr. Kissinger was asked later in his classified testimony whether he had personally approved the wiretaps, and the Secretary 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."

NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1974

# Senate Unit Last Fall That

Mr. Kissinger was apparently referring to memorandums written by the late J. Edgar Hoover, the former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other bureau officials that state outright that Mr. Kissinger had requested the wiretaps.

The heretofore secret testimony by Mr. Kissinger came during confirmation hearings on his nomination to be Secretary of State. The committee approved his confirmation last September by a vote of 10 to 1.

In his testimony to the committee made public at the time and in subsequent statements,

Mr. 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 Mr. Kissinger's assertions and F.B.I. reports that said Mr. Kissinger had initiated the taps, William D. Ruskelshaus, former acting F.B.I. 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

# He or Haldeman Initiated Wiretaps

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

### Other Memos Released

Other memorandums written by Mr. Dixon were covertly released to the press, and the June 12 document was apparently the last one he wrote. He began it by stating, "In this morning's newspaper, there is printed a memorandum prepared for certain members of this committee which the reporter stated was obtained from a member of a Congress man's personal staff. For that reason, please treat this as highly confidential." The June 12 memorandum was made available to The New York Times by a Republican committee member who has generally supported the President in the impeachment inquiry. White House officials have attempted to discredit the committee in recent days by causing leaks of confidential information. The wiretaps on the home telephones of the Government officials and newsmen began in May, 1969, and were discontinued two years later. President Nixon has asserted that he "authorized this entire

program" in an effort to plug leaks of classified national security information.

The Judiciary Committee, however, has received evidence that some of the taps were placed on the telephones of officials who did not deal with national security material and that others remained in place long after the officials had left the Government and had gone to work for Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, a Democratic Presidential candidate in 1972.

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