

*William
Safire's
New
Book:
Debunking
The
Foreign
Policy
Skills
Of
Kissinger
Under
Nixon*

By Dorothy McCardle

The foreign policy skill of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is debunked in a soon-to-be-published book. The author is former White House special assistant William L. Safire.

Safire, a speech writer and researcher in the Nixon administration, calls his story of the Nixon first term "Before the Fall." It will be published by Doubleday on Feb. 21.

Safire gave a preview of the book when he participated in an "Inside Washington Seminar" on a week-long cruise before Christmas. In fact, he "scooped" himself when he addressed an audience of 300 attending the seminar on board the S.S. Rotterdam, a Holland-America liner. He said his behind-the-scenes look at former President Nixon and his chief foreign policy adviser is all in his book.

Safire indicated that Kissinger, once regarded as the originator of the Nixon foreign policy, was little more than a stooge to Nixon, the mastermind.

"Kissinger was a student of President Nixon's foreign policy ideas," said Safire. "He was a tool in Nixon's idea of solving the war in Vietnam. Nixon used Kissinger rather skillfully in exploiting the Communist world."

Safire accused Kissinger of double talk. In the war in Vietnam, Safire said Kissinger "advocated the Christmas bombing and then let his friends in the press know that he was against it."

Safire wound up by saying that he felt former President Nixon "intended to drop Kissinger" eventually.

Apparently, Safire is none too easy on his former boss, Richard Nixon, in his book. In the matter of bombing Cambodia, Safire said that "Nixon leap-frogged the advice of all his advisers."

Safire spent four years with the Nixon administration, doing research and writing speeches on domestic policy. He escaped the tarnish of Watergate, leaving the White House before April, 1973. He left to write his book and do a twice-weekly column for The New York Times.

Another seminar participant also is writing a book. Frank Mankiewicz, who was press secretary to the late Sen. Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) and helped manage the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), has done a book about Watergate.

He calls it "The U.S. Versus Nixon," and it will be published in January by Quadrangle Publications.

He tackles the subject from four angles, the four institutions that he feels caused the downfall and resignation of Nixon—the Watergate special prosecutor, the House Judiciary Committee, Nixon's own White House team and the press.

The seminars combined the serious with the light touch, too. There were talks on inflation by leading economists and the discussion of life in Washington by newsmen and other participants.

On the fun side, the ubiquitous Washington party got into the picture. Both columnist Art Buchwald and Liz Carpenter, former press secretary to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House were asked to describe a guest



By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

Author William Safire

list that would make any dinner in Washington an instant success.

"Invite all the Rockefeller brothers and Arthur Goldberg together," said Buchwald. This allusion to the Rockefeller backing of the book against Goldberg brought down the house—or the ship of seminararians.

Liz Carpenter's guest list included Alice Roosevelt Longworth, "who doesn't care what she says," and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) who talks so much that "nobody else ever has to open their mouth."

Mrs. Carpenter commented that the successful Washington hostess needs only three books—"her checkbook, a cookbook and the Green Book." The last, of course, is the nickname of "The Social List of Washington."

Daniel Schorr, CBS Washington correspondent, and David Schoumacher, ABC News Watergate correspondent, were among the speakers at the seminars, which took place morning and afternoon when the Rotterdam was not in port.

In between getting the lowdown on life in Washington, cruisers took in sights at Nassau and Bermuda, the two ports of call.

At Nassau, the Rotterdam was berthed across from the latest Soviet cruise ship, the Maxim Gorky. Some of the members of the "Inside Washington" seminars went sightseeing on the Russian ship. The ship had been built in Germany in 1969 and sold later to the Soviets under the management of the Black Sea Shipping Co. The Soviets renamed it for one of their most famous writers and have given it touches some American vessels don't have—such as closed-circuit television in all staterooms for the passenger capacity of 650, and an outdoor, heated, swimming pool large enough for more than a dunking.