

Kissinger Says Nixon Book Is

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger confirmed yesterday that with Richard Nixon's knowledge he had recorded telephone conversations with the former President, but Kissinger said other aspects of a new book on Mr. Nixon's downfall are inaccurate.

An aide to Kissinger authorized to comment for him on the book, "The Final Days" by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, said, "There are so many inaccuracies and significant untruths in this that he (Kissinger) is not going to comment on it."

David Eisenhower, son-in-law of the former President, denied yesterday that the Nixon family was ever worried that Mr. Nixon might kill himself. The book says

aides and relatives, including Eisenhower, worried that Mr. Nixon might take his own life.

Lawrence Eagleburger, deputy undersecretary of state, was the aide authorized to speak for Kissinger yesterday.

Regarding the taping of Kissinger's conversation with Mr. Nixon, Eagleburger said: "... It is true that the conversations were transcribed. The President knew that there was someone on the line to take them down.

"The reason for this was that there would be followup needed as a result of phone conversations, and this was a way to assure that the followup was carried out. These procedures applied to all of Kissinger's business arrangements. There was no special procedure for the President's calls.

"On the occasions when they and other conversations were taped, the tapes were destroyed as soon as secretaries had a chance to transcribe them. The purpose of the system of taping was simply to handle the load for the secretaries."

Several former associates of Kissinger said in interviews yesterday that the transcribing of telephone calls was routine in his office. All of them asked not to be identified.

Several of these persons also said they thought it was routine for senior government officials to ask their secretaries to listen in on phone calls and make notes for the record.

Another former Kissinger asso-

Inaccurate

ciate said he had listened in on some of the telephone conversations between Kissinger and Mr. Nixon.

"It was frightening," this man said. "Some of the younger Kissinger aides couldn't take it... I think Nixon was one of the most unbalanced personalities that has ever been in the presidency."

Eisenhower was asked yesterday about references in the book to heavy drinking by the former President. "I didn't see a lot of it, particularly," he said.

Asked about the book's description of the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Nixon as strained, Eisenhower said that was "a general characterization of the relationship."

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See SFC 3 Apr 76 [AP]