

Before Cambodia invasion

Kissinger warned of campus deaths — Post writer

By **ROB ROWLAND**
 U.S. presidential advisor Henry Kissinger was warned of the possibility of deaths on American campuses following the Cambodian incursion, Joseph Y. Smith, feature writer with the Washington Post told an audience at Glendon Thursday. Smith was discussing the making of policy and the media on the Vietnam war and the Pentagon papers. Few people have had any influence on the Nixon administration,

least of all the press, Smith said. Even high officials have had no influence at times. Smith revealed that William Watts, secretary of Kissinger's National Security Council predicted the Kent State and Jackson State killings while the Cambodian invasion was still in the planning stages. Watts, when he learned of the war plans, went to Kissinger to warn him that U.S. campuses would explode when the news was known. Watts

told Kissinger that the National Guard would have to be called out on some campuses and that there would be deaths on a few. Kissinger did not believe Watts and did not pass his prediction on to president Richard Nixon. Watts then refused to take part in NSC conferences planning the Cambodian affair and was later dropped from the Council. Despite the wide coverage the Pentagon papers received in the

world media, they have had no substantial effect on the policy of the U.S. government or the attitudes of the American people Smith claimed. "There were no secrets in the Pentagon papers," Smith stated. The substance of the papers had been reported before. Instead, the gradual work of the media has had an important effect on policy and attitudes. The publication of the Pentagon papers was not a crusade in the normal newspaper sense, Smith said. They were a continuation of the media's role of gradual chipping away at government policies. Few people have read the Pentagon papers, due to the difficulty of reading them in the New York Times or the Washington Post, he said. Even though the revelations of the papers themselves had little

effect, "This is not to say that media has not had an effect on policy over the years, a chipping away at U.S. policy," he concluded. Although the Supreme Court ruled that the news media that published the Pentagon papers could not be forbidden from doing so as prior restraint violated the American constitution, those media are still open to prosecution under the 1950 National Security Act. The papers have had an effect on the U.S. press according to Smith. They have made the press more alert and willing to push a little harder in their dealings with the administration, he said. He also pointed out that vice-president Spiro Agnew's attacks have made the media try to become more objective or at least put forward an appearance of objectivity.

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