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Who Fools the Travel Bill for the Kissinger Children?

VII

By Maxine Cheshire
 Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's son, David, turned 14 this month and his birthday present was to travel with his father and President Ford on their 10-day, 13,205-mile trip to five European countries. David is a well-traveled teenager. He and his sister, Elizabeth, also accompanied Kissinger to the Soviet Union and China last year.

The question of who pays for the Kissinger children's travels is one on which the State Department has recently reversed itself.
 Last November, when reporters who regularly cover Kissinger or brought up the matter at a briefing, a spokesman assured them that the Secretary planned to reimburse the

government as soon as he received a bill from the Air Force.
 For nine months, the State Department would not answer any further questions on the subject.
 Reporters who traveled on the most recent trip to Helsinki submitted questions, but were also unable to get any clarification on who was paying for David's journey.

According to the White House press office, President Ford's son, Jack, went on the European trip as part of the official party invited by foreign governments. But, no such claim was made for David.
 Finally, last week, the State Department changed its mind about whether or not the Secretary should

Robert Funneth, a State Department press officer, said that the matter had been carefully reviewed and "our determination is that the United States government has incurred no additional air travel expense because of the Kissinger children because they have traveled in aircraft which are not official missions and their presence therefore did not add to the cost of the mission."
 Robert Funneth, a press officer, said that the matter had been carefully reviewed and "our determination is that the United States government has incurred no additional air travel expense because of the Kissinger children because they have traveled in aircraft which were at

ready engaged in official missions and their presence therefore did not add to the cost of the mission."
 Funneth added:
 "The Secretary himself paid for all other personal or incidental expenses resulting from his children's travels."

The Internal Revenue Service may not agree with the State Department's decision.
 According to White House press spokesman Larry Speakes, the argument over whether or not the children of the President and other top-ranking government officials can travel free with their fathers on government planes except as members of the official party is something the Ford Administration has asked the IRS to clarify.
 When the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation examined former President Nixon's tax returns last year, the IRS ruled that he must either reimburse the government for the travels of his daughters and son-in-law or else treat such travels as income taxable to him.
 "So far, we have had no report back," he said.
 An IRS spokesman said last week that the report, when it comes, will "presumably" apply to the Kissinger children as well as the Ford family. Both Ford and Kissinger could end up amending their 1974 tax returns.

There have been three-way consultations, Speakes said, between the White House, the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service.
 "The thing, according to Speakes, applied to trips where they were accompanying the President on a plane that was going anyway" or on trips when he was not alone.
 Speakes said that President Ford wanted to know if "the Nixon ruling" also applied to the four Ford children.
 "9/17/75, The Washington Post and Times Herald, Page 1, Column 1, Paragraph 111
 The Tax Authority, State Department