

Oxmoor
March 10, 1950.

ALGER HISS AND OSCAR WILDE

"But he does not win who plays with sin
In the secret House of Shame;
For men are there who do not dare
To let us know their name."

by
Wm. Marshall Bullitt.

THE SALMAGUNDI CLUB AND OUR GUESTS:

I propose, first, to give you a bird's eye view of the Alger Hiss scandal, his trials, and his conviction; secondly, to point out those fatal human errors which Oscar Wilde made fifty-five years ago, and which Alger Hiss repeated recently.

Those errors disgraced and ruined them both — Oscar Wilde at forty, and Alger Hiss at forty-three. Had they not committed those foolish errors, their sine would never have found them out.

As to Mr. Hiss (different from Oscar Wilde), there is no sex angle involved.

Alger Hiss' Background

In May, 1933 (17 years ago) at the beginning of the Roosevelt Administration, Alger Hiss (aged 28) was tall, handsome, well-dressed, attractive, agreeable, charming in manner, a Phi Beta Kappa honor graduate of Johns Hopkins University and of the Harvard Law School, former Secretary to Mr. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, professionally trained in two fine law firms of Boston and New York, and of exceptional industry and intellectual ability.

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture — now (and probably then) a radical "Red" supporter of Russian Communism — insisted that President Roosevelt give an excellent job in the Department of Agriculture to Hiss as one of the young "New Deal" brain trusters with which President Roosevelt was then flooding Washington. The President appointed Hiss, who rose rapidly in the Department of Agriculture, a Senatorial Investigation, and the Department of Justice.

As might have been anticipated from Wallace's backing, Hiss's closest friends were a small, but important, group of radical Communists and traitorous fellow travelers, all of whom held important positions in the new Roosevelt Administration (including an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Harry Dexter White*), and who recently pleaded "self-incrimination" as their ground for refusing to tell whether they ever knew Alger Hiss, or are, or ever were, Communists.

Whittaker Chambers

25 years ago, Whittaker Chambers (aged 23) joined the Communist Party, in the mistaken belief that it afforded the best escape from another World War and a reversion to barbarism — with which the Hydrogen Bomb and the Soviet Union may be threatening us today.

Within 10 years, Chambers rose to be Editor of two Communist papers, a paid functionary of the Communist Party, a leader in its "underground" organization, and its secret "courier" between New York and Washington.

Hiss' and Chambers' Close Association [1935-1938]

About 1934 or early 1935, two leaders of the Communist Party introduced Chambers to Hiss as a disciplined fellow Communist; and shortly thereafter Hiss entered the State Department.

Thus began three or four years [1934-1938] of very close personal and Communist intimacy between Hiss and Chambers.

Termination of Hiss-Chambers Intimacy [1938]

In April, 1938, after many months of tortured self-reflection, Chambers intellectually repudiated the doctrines of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and became convinced that Communism was a form of totalitarianism, whose

* Who's Who in America, 1948-1949, p. 2656.

triumph meant slavery to all men under their sway, and spiritual night to the human mind and soul. He silently broke with Communism, told Hiss about it, fled into hiding for more than a year (fearful of Communistic vengeance upon himself and his family). He tried to persuade Hiss to break with the Communists. Hiss, in tears, refused to do so. Their prior close intimacy ended.

Chambers became an editorial writer on TIME, and quickly rose to a salary of \$30,000 a year.

A year passed, with great world crises — Austria, Czechoslovakia, Munich, Danzig, and Poland.

Chambers' Confession to the Government, August, 1939

On August 26, 1939 — 5 days before the outbreak of World War II — Hitler and Stalin published to the world their "Non-Aggression Pact". Chambers realized it meant another World War. He immediately went to Washington, and tried to see President Roosevelt, whose private secretary, [Marvin McIntyre] referred him to Adolph A. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State. Mr. Berle had Chambers dine with him and Mrs. Berle that night [August 29, 1939] — two days before the outbreak of World War II.

Chambers told Mr. Berle the story of Communist "underground espionage" in the State Department; confessed that for years he had been an undercover Communist, but had abandoned it; gave the names of Alger Hiss and others as traitorous Communists (inside our Government), who had supplied him with confidential documents for transmission to the Soviet Government; said he did not want to spend the rest of his life with that terrible secret hanging around his neck; but wanted to tell the Government his story, and then to disappear from the proceedings, and do nothing further about it.

Mr. Berle made full notes of the facts which Chambers gave him; then checked with Mr. Acheson — not once, but twice— and also with Mr. Justice Frankfurter. They both vouched for Hiss absolutely.

Nevertheless, Mr. Berle believed Chambers' story, and took elaborate steps in the State Department to counteract any Communistic betrayal of the Government.

Chambers felt he had done his duty by his confession and revelations to the highest Government Official he could reach.

For the next nine years [1939-1949], Chambers confined himself to his editorship of TIME.

F.B.I.'s Suspicions and Investigations of Hiss [1940-1949]

On September 1, 1939, World War II began, but we did not get into it until Pearl Harbor — December 7, 1941.

In 1941, Chambers repeated to the Department of Justice his information about Hiss.

For reasons not yet fully disclosed the F.B.I. had already become suspicious of Mr. Hiss' loyalty, and during the next seven or eight years [1940-1948] investigated, and from time to time, questioned Hiss intensively, regarding his possible Communism and his Communistic connections — which he always denied.

In 1943, Mr. Berle turned over to the F.B.I. his notes of Chambers' confession, and his revelations about Hiss' Communistic activities.

As the War years rolled on, Hiss rose so high in the State Department as to become an important factor at the International Conferences at Malta and at Yalta, at London, at Dumbarton Oaks, and at Bretton Woods, in drafting President Roosevelt's messages, and in the organization of the United Nations. His high position temporarily balked any public disclosure by the F.B.I.

The Sword of Damocles Hanging over Hiss' Head

Hiss was fully conscious that during three years [1936-1938], he had traitorously forwarded to Russia (through Chambers) hundreds of the State Department's most secret and confidential documents. Chambers alone knew of Hiss' shameful guilt.

For the next ten years after Chambers left Communism [1938-1949], Hiss lived a life of secret dread and terror — for "Terror haunts the guilty mind". The F.B.I.'s repeated questioning of Hiss about his Communism added further terror to his daily and nightly fear of possible discovery.

In April, 1946, Secretary of State Byrnes called Hiss into his office; told him that several Members of Congress were about to denounce him on the floor of the House as a Communist; that this was a very serious matter, which had sprung from the F.B.I., who had obtained the information, and that Hiss ought to go directly to the F.B.I. and invite a full inquiry and investigation — but Hiss did not do so.

With the possibility that the Republicans might win the 1946 Congressional Elections (as they did), and possibly the Presidency in 1948, Hiss saw that it was to his interest to get out of his highly controversial, political office, where a change in National Administration might lead to his exposure, and to seek some non-political office, where no one would have any incentive to continue the F.B.I.'s relentless investigation of his prior governmental life.

Election of Hiss as President of the Carnegie Endowment [December 10, 1946]

Just at that time [April, 1946], the Carnegie Endowment was seeking a new, full-time President, at a salary of \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year, to take the place of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who had just resigned.

Upon the strong recommendation of Mr. Acheson and Mr. John Foster Dulles, the Carnegie Endowment elected Mr. Hiss as its President.

He did not tell the Carnegie Endowment that he had ever been suspected or questioned about being a Communist. He thought that as President of such a non-controversial and highly reputable organization devoted to International Peace (with a \$20,000 a year salary and an apparently lifetime job) he would be far removed from partisan political attacks that might disclose his former betrayal and traitorous acts.

Immediately after his election as President of Carnegie Endowment, the unexpected happened.

Carnegie Endowment received various reports that Hiss was, or had been, a Communist [1946-1947]. The F.B.I. questioned him further [May, 1947]. Then the Federal Grand Jury questioned him [February, 1948]. He denied all Communist affiliations. No publicity followed.

On the surface, everything was still serene.

The Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities
[August 3-September 9, 1948]

This Committee learned that nine years before [1939], Whittaker Chambers told Mr. Berle about Hiss' Communist operations within the State Department. It determined to find out if any official action had been taken regarding that information.

Without warning, the Committee subpoenaed Whittaker Chambers to appear before it the next morning [August 3, 1948]. Chambers told of his own former Communist connection; that Alger Hiss, among others, belonged to a small Communist "underground" group, whose object was a Communist infiltration of the American Government; that in 1938 he [Chambers] had broken away from Communism, tried to persuade Hiss to do likewise, and in 1939 had warned Assistant Secretary of State Berle of the Hiss Communist activities in the State Department.

Hiss rushed before the Committee to testify the following day [August 5, 1948]:

Hiss then denied having seen, or having ever heard of, Chambers; denied Chambers' statements as "complete fabrications"; emphasized his own high level of education, positions, and close friends in high public life; minimized his acquaintance with the Communist group [named by Chambers] as mere accidental and casual acquaintances; admitted that he had been investigated by the F.B.I. as far back as 1938-1940, 1943, 1946, 1947, and 1948; and had been searchingly questioned on the subject of Mr. Dulles in 1946 and again in 1948.

This raised a direct issue of veracity between Hiss and Chambers, as to whether they had ever known each other. During the next 35 days, the Committee examined a large number of witnesses, whose testimony (covering nearly 500 closely printed pages) may be thus briefly summarized:

First: Chambers gave a blunt, straight-forward, positive, and unqualified statement of facts, supported by multitudinous private details — which no one could have known about another person, unless they had been very closely associated — showing his, and his family's, three years of close intimacy with Hiss, and with Hiss' family [1935-1948] — none of which facts or details have ever been shown to be untrue or even inaccurate.

Second: After days of denial, Hiss finally admitted on August 17, 1948, that for a few months in 1935 he had a slight acquaintanceship with Chambers (under the alleged name of "George Crosley"). He then gave a purported specific, chronological account of his contact with "Crosley" during five months [May-September, 1935]; and said (1) that he never saw "Crosley" more than 5 or 10 times; and (2) that he never saw or thought of him after 1935.

Meanwhile, the Committee made an intense investigation regarding the stories of both Chambers and Hiss; and could never find anything to contradict Chambers.

Third: Suddenly, beginning on August 24, and continuing for 7 separate days, the Committee introduced 17 new, impartial, and outside witnesses, whose testimony, supported by all kinds of public and private contemporaneous written records, tore to pieces practically every statement Hiss had made. The Committee cynically observed:

"The verifiable portions of Chambers' testimony have stood up strongly; the verifiable portions of Hiss' testimony have been badly shaken and are primarily refuted by the testimony of Hiss versus Hiss".

I have not the time to list all of Hiss' untruthful statements. There were plenty of them. None of Chambers' statements have ever been impeached, except by Mr. and Mrs. Hiss.

Hiss' \$75,000 Libel Suit against Chambers

On August 17, 1948 — a week before Hiss' statements were discredited — Hiss threatened Chambers with a libel suit, if (outside the privileged protection of testimony before a Congressional Committee) Chambers would publicly state that Hiss was a Communist. Chambers accepted the challenge; and, in a radio broadcast, said:

"Mr. Hiss was a Communist, and may still be".

Hiss delayed filing a libel suit. Then THE WASHINGTON POST — previously favorable to Hiss — took him to task for not filing it. This forced Hiss, on September 27, 1948, to sue Chambers in the Federal Court at Baltimore for \$75,000 libel.

That threw the Chambers-Hiss veracity controversy into the arena of the Federal Courts.

On November 17, 1948, Hiss made his second, and greatest, mistake, when he took Chambers' deposition in advance of trial. Under judicial compulsion, Chambers produced 47 papers; 4 were in Hiss' own handwriting; 42 were typewritten copies of the most secret and confidential State Department documents; and those 42 copies were later shown to have been written by Mrs. Hiss, on her own private Woodstock typewriter.

The Committee heard of these documents, and subpoenaed Chambers to produce any other papers he had. He produced five rolls of microfilm containing photostatic copies of scores of confidential and secret documents which had been abstracted from the State Department and the Bureau of Standards. In order to defeat any Communist effort to get hold of those microfilms, Chambers kept them in a pumpkin overnight, when they were delivered to the Congressional Committee and then to the Department of Justice for further action.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and Mr. and Mrs. Hiss were summoned to testify before the Federal Grand Jury in New York.

Federal Grand Jury Indictment of Alger Hiss, December 15, 1948

Chambers told the Grand Jury that during the three years 1936-1938, Hiss had given him hundreds of highly secret and confidential State Department documents, for forwarding to the Soviet Government; and that, in the spring of 1938, Hiss had given him the Baltimore documents for the same purpose.

On the other hand, Hiss told the Grand Jury that he had never, at any time, given any documents to Chambers; and had never seen Chambers since January 1, 1937.

The Grand Jury believed Chambers; and immediately indicted Hiss for perjury.

These are the simple questions:

1. Did Hiss lie when he said he did not pass over to Chambers any State Department documents, or copies of State Department documents, in or around February and March, 1938?

2. Did Hiss further lie when he said he never saw Chambers after January 1, 1937?

Hiss' first trial (May 31-July 8, 1949) ended in a hung jury, which voted eight to four for conviction.

His second trial (November 1949-January 22, 1950) ended in an unanimous verdict that he was guilty of perjury on both counts; and he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on each of the two charges of perjury.

The Hiss trials involved three questions:

First: As introductory to the two vital questions: Were Hiss and Chambers (and their families) very close friends and associated Communists, as Chambers claimed? Or, were they barely acquainted as Hiss insisted? If close friends and associated Communists, they might naturally have joined in deep and dangerous treason. But, if bare acquaintances, they would not be very likely to have done so.

Second: Did Hiss ever see Chambers after January 1, 1937?

Third: Did Hiss (or Mrs. Hiss) pass over to Chambers secret State Department documents, or copies of them?

FIRST: When Chambers testified on August 3, 7, 1948, he told the Committee his story simply. Every one of his facts has been corroborated.

For example, he said he knew the Hisses "socially"; and Mrs. Hiss testified before the Grand Jury that Mr. Hiss was a "social" acquaintance;

that he lived in Mr. Hiss' 28th Street Apartment for a good many weeks, and Mr. Hiss admitted it; that at times he and his family stayed in Hiss' "P" Street House, which the Hisses admitted; that Hiss had a Ford, which he wanted to give to some poor Communist. The Government records showed that more than a year after Hiss claimed he had given the Ford to Chambers, Hiss, under his own signature, had transferred the Ford to one Rosen at a fictitious address — which Chambers would never have known if he had not gotten those facts directly from Hiss in the first place; that he went with Hiss to look at a farm near Westminster, Maryland, which Hiss wanted to buy, but Hiss threw over the forfeit money, and Chambers ultimately bought the farm for himself; that there was a Colonel Lamb, which Hiss corroborated as a man of that name when he (Hiss) was on the Nye Committee; that the Hisses had an "aging and ailing maid", whose name he could not remember, and Mrs. Hiss described her as "ailing - ailing maid"; that one of the Hiss' friends was a woman named "Plum Fountain", and it developed that she was Mrs. Hiss' friend, who went to Bryn Mawr, as had Mrs. Hiss.

How would Chambers have known that unusual name "Plum Fountain" as one of the Hiss friends, unless he had met her (as he said he did) in the social life of the Hisses?

Chambers testified that he had received a number of furniture gifts from the Hisses, which he has on his farm today, where Hiss' lawyer McLean saw them; that, as a young man, he worked on the Washington Railway, and Hiss said that Chambers had told him so; that there was a secret Communist organization called "The American Feature Writers Association" to send Max Lieber to Japan, and the County Clerk's Office produced a certified copy of the unusual name "American Feature Writers Association"; that a

fellow named Green had charge of the Nye Committee papers, and Green said so, and Hiss admitted that there was a man in the State Department named Green who had charge of the Nye Committee papers; that on August 10, 1937, the Chambers and the Hisses took a trip to Peterboro, New Hampshire, and there saw a summer stock company play "She Stoops to Conquer" — and on looking up the NEW YORK TIMES of that same date 13 years ago, that place and that name of the play was found, and at that time Hiss was on his annual leave; that they had made a trip to "Long Eddy", and a 12 year ago advertisement in the NEW YORK TIMES revealed that unusual name "Long Eddy" —almost as remarkable as "Plum Fountain".

That on Tuesday, November 23, 1937, Chambers bought a new Ford automobile, by trading in an old car and paying \$457.25 cash, which he said Hiss drew out from bank and turned over to him. The Government proved from the records of the Riggs National Bank in Washington that on Friday, November 19, 1937, Mrs. Hiss drew out \$400 in cash from their joint (?) savings account, and then could never explain what she did with the money.

Hiss testified that he never told Chambers about drawing out the \$400 from the Riggs National Bank. How, then, could Chambers have possibly known that the \$400 loaned to him had been drawn out of Mrs. Hiss' savings account, unless Hiss or Mrs. Hiss had told him so?

This is a further evidence that Hiss had seen Chambers after January 1, 1937, and that their intimacy was close enough in late 1937 for Hiss to be willing to lend Chambers \$400 without security.

Chambers described in great detail all the different houses the Hisses had lived in; how their furniture was disposed in the rooms; the colors and the outside appearances of the houses.

Mrs. Chambers told how Mrs. Hiss was constantly talking about Chemistry and nursing at the Mercy Hospital. Long afterwards, the

Government discovered a letter Mrs. Hiss had written 13 years ago to the University of Maryland, asking to be allowed to take a course in Chemistry, as a prerequisite for her admission to a nursing course in the Mercy Hospital!

I cite these trifling things to show that Chambers could never have known them, twelve or fourteen years ago, unless he had been on the closest terms of intimacy with the Hiss family.

Mrs. Messing (the divorced wife of the escaped Communist Gerhart Eisler) told of her competition with Hiss in their Communist activities.

Edith Murray (the Chambers' colored maid) testified about Mrs. Hiss' visit with her child at the Chambers house in Baltimore.

Although Hiss first told the Congressional Committee that the name "Whittaker Chambers" meant nothing to him; yet, in point of fact, Hiss was very familiar with the name of Whittaker Chambers, because in 1947 the F.B.I. asked about his acquaintanceship with Whittaker Chambers, and in March, 1948, the Grand Jury discussed the name with him.

Hiss attempted to explain his belated recognition of Chambers by saying that in the fall of 1934 he casually met a free lance reporter named "George Crosley"; six months later rented his vacated furnished apartment on 28th Street to "Crosley" for the summer of 1935, and threw in an old 1929 Ford Roadster for good measure, because he had a new Plymouth and did not need two cars at the same time; that "Crosley" occupied the apartment through the summer of 1935, and borrowed money from him, but never paid the rent or repaid the loan; and that in the fall of 1935 Hiss terminated his acquaintance with "Crosley" because he was a "dead beat" and a "four flusher"; but as "part payment on the rent Crosley" gave him a rug, of which Hiss said:

"I have still got the darned thing".

The Government proved by innumerable witnesses that there never was a "George Grosley"; that the lease on Hiss' 28th Street Apartment did not run through the summer, but ended in a few weeks, to-wit: June 26, 1935, when the water, light and heat were turned off and the apartment rented to somebody else; that he did not have two cars, but only one; and that Chambers never gave Hiss any rug in 1935 as part payment for rent.

Chambers used Hiss' home as a kind of Communist headquarters; stayed overnight for days, and as long as a week at a time; saw Hiss at least once a week, and got his meals there; knew all the nicknames in the Hiss family; knew how Hiss first met his wife at a Socialist institution; told about the brown Cocker Spaniel as a pet, the Hiss hobby as bird lovers, Hiss' early life, dragging a wagon for a long way to fill bottles with spring water to sell it; and many other intimate family facts.

These are but a few of the many incidents which prove that Hiss knew Chambers intimately; and that Hiss' story of only knowing Chambers for a few months as "George Grosley" (whom no one else has ever known, seen or heard of) was wholly false.

SECOND: Did Hiss ever see Chambers after January 1, 1937?

The jury found that Hiss constantly saw Chambers throughout the entire year 1937, through the first few months of 1938, and again towards the end of 1938. It convicted him of perjury for lying to the Grand Jury when he told them he had never seen Chambers after January 1, 1937.

To save time, I will give you just one incident which proves that Hiss knew Chambers after January 1, 1937:

On Wednesday, December 23, 1936 (with money furnished by the Soviet Government), Chambers had Professor Schapiro (of the Fine Arts Department of Columbia University) buy four Oriental rugs at the wholesale price of \$876.71; and, on or after Tuesday, December 29, 1936, ship one to

Washington to George Silverman (who refused to say whether he was, or ever had been, a Communist, and who worked under General Bennett Meyers of the War Department — now serving a penitentiary sentence for perjury and fraud), to be delivered to Alger Hiss in order to smooth out the relations between Hiss and the Soviet Government.

It would have taken two or three days for the rug to be delivered in Washington.

Hiss had that rug in storage in Washington from September, 1937, to December, 1938, and paid storage on it each month by his own check for 48¢. The Government could not force Hiss to produce "the damned thing", which he said Chambers gave him in September, 1935. If Hiss had produced it, the experts would have quickly told that it was the very rug Chambers bought in late December, 1936, and sent to Washington after December 29, 1936, for delivery to Hiss.

I refer to the rug simply as an additional illustration of the intimate relationship between Chambers and Hiss, i.e. Chambers' gift to Hiss of an Oriental rug, which was still in New York on December 29, 1936, to be sent to Washington for delivery to Hiss. It certainly could not have been delivered earlier than January 1, 1937; and so Hiss was bound to have seen Chambers after January 1, 1937, when Chambers gave the rug to him; and yet Hiss swore to the Grand Jury that he had never seen Chambers after January 1, 1937.

One may wonder why Hiss called the rug "the damned thing", and yet carefully paid monthly storage on it for more than a year in 1937-1938.

Do you wonder that the jury unanimously convicted Hiss of perjury, on the ground that he lied to the Grand Jury, when he said he had never seen Chambers after January 1, 1937?

THIRD: Hiss and Mrs. Hiss delivered to Chambers many secret State Department documents, and copies of others, for Chambers to give to the Soviet Government.

I do not propose to rely on anything Whittaker Chambers has said, although I believe he has told the truth in everything.

I propose to prove that the Hisses gave the private documents to Chambers — without relying on anything Chambers said, but by immutable facts which no one can deny.

This is the story of the confidential and secret State Department documents involved:

In January-March, 1938, various European officials of the United States cabled secret messages to the State Department at Washington. Obviously, any copies of those documents had to be made after January-March, 1938: as copies can not be made before the originals are.

Chambers produced before the jury three separate sets of documents, namely:

- (1) Four small sheets about this size [INDICATING], dated, signed and written in the handwriting of Alger Hiss, and which he admitted writing, dating and signing his name;
- (2) 30 or 40 typewritten sheets which were copies of the most secret and confidential cables to the State Department, all dated in January-March, 1938;
- (3) Microfilms of similar documents of the same dates.

Although Chambers says Hiss gave him the copies, and also the originals of other cables to be microfilmed, I do not ask you to believe a word Chambers has said; but you have got to believe the immutable facts

that Chambers produced all those papers to the Grand Jury, and to the juries that tried Hiss.

Hiss' admissions:

- (a) Hiss frankly admitted that he wrote, dated and signed the four small sheets which were summaries of very confidential State Department documents.
- (b) The Government proved, and Hiss admitted, that the 30 or 40 typewritten documents were precise and absolute typewritten copies of original secret documents which the State Department received in January-March, 1938.
- (c) The Government proved, and Hiss admitted, that the microfilms were photographs of similar original State Department documents received from Europe in January-March, 1938.

The Government established these facts by bringing the original cables down to the jury, and comparing them with the Chambers documents right before the jury.

The Government next produced two typewritten letters, both dated May 25, 1937.

One was written to the University of Maryland, requesting to be admitted to a course of Chemistry as a condition precedent to taking a nursing course in the Mercy Hospital. It was signed "Priscilla Hiss".

The other was written to the Headmaster of a Boy's School in Maryland, requesting that the writer's son be admitted to the School, and giving elaborate information about the boy's education, health, characteristics, etc. It was also signed "Priscilla Hiss".

Mrs. Hiss testified that on May 25, 1937, she personally typed and signed both letters on her own Private Woodstock typewriter, which her father had given to her about 20 years before.

The Government proved, and Mr. Hiss admitted before the jury, that the 30 or 40 typewritten papers produced by Mr. Chambers were not only copies of the most secret State Department documents, but had been typed out on Mrs. Hiss' own Woodstock typewriter.

This established, and Mr. Hiss admitted before the jury, that every typewritten paper which Chambers produced was a precise copy of an original secret State Department document, received at the State Department in January-March, 1938; and that each copy was not only an absolute copy, but was written on Mrs. Hiss' Woodstock typewriter.

What is left for your imagination?

Chambers produces not one, but 30 or 40, typewritten copies of the Government's most secret documents; says that Mr. Hiss gave them to him; and Mr. Hiss admits that every one of them was not only an accurate copy of the original document in the State Department, which had just been received from Europe, but had been copied on his wife's Woodstock typewriter.

How could Mr. Chambers have gotten hold of such secret documents written on Mrs. Hiss' typewriter?

Mrs. Hiss says she did not write them on her typewriter. Mr. Hiss suggests that some wicked person got hold of the State Department's most secret documents, and made copies on Mrs. Hiss' typewriter.

The jury refused to believe any such cock and bull story.

When, on November 17, 1948, Chambers produced the numerous original typewritten papers which Hiss had given him eleven years before, Hiss was amazed and realized the difficulty he was in. The Woodstock typewriter was in his house. It had to be gotten rid of in some way. Instead of taking it and dropping it in the ocean (which he was afraid to do lest someone might see him do it), he tried to get rid of it by one explanation or another, and they all failed. As a last resort, the Hisses, in some

way got the typewriter out of the house and into the hands of an old negro servant named Catlett.

Then they had to fix up some kind of story for the Catletts to tell. This was the story that the Hisses fixed up:

Mrs. Hiss claimed that in the early part of 1937, she gave the typewriter to her negro maid, Mrs. Catlett, who had died long ago. But the F.B.I. found her out alive and healthy.

Then Mrs. Hiss got up a new story: That she gave the typewriter to Mrs. Catlett's two little sons; that they found the typewriter was too battered up to write on; took it to a Woodstock repair shop at the Northwest Corner of Connecticut & K Streets, had it repaired, and brought it back home and kept it in their negro house for many years until they gave it to their sister.

[HERE OUTLINE THE CATLETT BOYS' STORY AND HOW IT WAS PROVED TO BE FALSE]

There is one amazingly interesting thing that I want you to bear in mind.

The Government pointed out that in Mrs. Hiss' letters to the University of Maryland and to the Maryland Boys School (which Mrs. Hiss admitted she wrote), we find exactly the same typographical mistakes that appear in the copies of the secret documents which Mr. Chambers produced. For example, in Mrs. Hiss' letters, and in the typewritten copies which Mr. Chambers produced, you will find the following amazing typewritten errors in each:

"r" for "i"

"f" for "g"

"f" for "d"

Certainly those mistakes, made in each of the letters Mrs. Hiss wrote, and then made in the 30 or 40 letters produced by Chambers, show that

Mrs. Fiss, and nobody but Mrs. Hiss, could have made exactly the same mistakes, on the same typewriter, in the two different sets of documents.

Additional notes

Point out that it would have been utterly impossible for Chambers, or any wicked confederate, to have located Mrs. Hiss, gotten into the house, surreptitiously found out what the Hisses had done with it, and to have gone in and written the countless copies of secret documents.

No one has ever suggested any possible way the 30 or 40 documents produced by Chambers could have been written by anyone, except Mrs. Hiss.

Comparison of Oscar Wilde and Alger Hiss.