

UNION COLLEGE

November 13, 1950.

THE STORY OF ALGER HISS

By

Wm. Marshall Bullitt.

DR. BOATMAN, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I propose to give you a bird's eye view of the Alger Hiss scandal, trials, and conviction; and to point out the fatal human errors he made — which disgraced and ruined him at age 43. If he had not made those foolish errors, his sins would never have found him out.

Alger Hiss' Background

In May, 1933 (17 years ago), Alger Hiss (aged 28) was tall, handsome, well-dressed, attractive, agreeable, charming in manner;

a Phi Beta Kappa honor graduate of Johns Hopkins 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.

At the urgent request of Henry A. Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture and a radical "Red" supporter of Russian Communism — the President gave Hiss an excellent job in the Department of Agriculture, as one of the young "New Deal" brain-trusters then flooding Washington. Hiss rose rapidly through the Department of Agriculture, into a Senatorial Investigation, the Department of Justice, and then in the State Department.

In those years, Hiss' closest friends were a small, but important, group of radical Communists and traitorous fellow-travelers, who held important positions in the Roosevelt Administration, and who have

recently pleaded "self-incrimination" as an excuse for refusing to say whether they 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 an escape from another World War, and from a reversion to barbarism — with which the Soviet Union threatens us today.

Chambers rapidly 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]

Two leading Communists introduced Chambers to Hiss as a disciplined fellow-Communist; and thus began four years of very close personal, and Communist, intimacy between Hiss and Chambers.

Termination of Hiss-Chambers Intimacy [1938]

In 1938, after many months of tortured self-reflection, Chambers repudiated the doctrines of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and became convinced that Communism was a form of totalitarianism, whose triumph meant slavery to all men under their sway, and spiritual night to the human mind and soul. Chambers silently broke with Communism; fled into hiding for more than a year (fearful of Communist vengeance upon himself and his family); and also tried to persuade Hiss to break with the Communists. Hiss, in tears, refused to do so.

Chambers became an editorial writer on TIME; and he 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 by the President's direction told Mr. Berle (Assistant Secretary of State) 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 a dozen others as traitorous Communists, inside our Government,

who had supplied Chambers with confidential documents for transmission to the Soviet Government. Chambers 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 stage.

Mr. Berle made 10 pages of notes in his own handwriting of what Chambers told him about Hiss; then checked with Mr. Acheson — not once, but twice — and also with Mr. Justice Frankfurter. They both vouched for Hiss absolutely.

For the next nine years [1939-1948], Chambers limited 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.

The F.B.I. became 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 Hiss always denied.

As the World War years rolled on, Hiss rose high in the State Department; in 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. That high position temporarily balked the F.B.I. from public disclosure about Hiss.

The Sword of Damocles Hanging over Hiss' Head

Hiss knew that for three years [1936-1938] he had traitorously forwarded to Russia (through Chambers) hundreds of the State Department's most secret and confidential documents. Hiss knew that Chambers was the only person in the world who knew of Hiss' shameful guilt.

For the next ten years Hiss lived a life of secret dread and terror — for "Terror haunts the guilty mind". The F.B.I. repeatedly questioned Hiss about his Communism. That added further terror to Hiss' daily and nightly fear of discovery.

In April, 1946, Secretary of State Byrnes told Hiss that several Members of Congress were about to denounce him on the floor of the House as a Communist; that it was a very serious matter, and sprung from the F.B.I.; and that Hiss ought to go directly to the F.B.I. and demand a full inquiry and investigation — but Hiss did not do so.

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

At the same time [April 1946], the Carnegie Endowment happened to be seeking a new President, at a salary of \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. Upon the strong

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

Hiss did not tell the Carnegie Endowment that he had ever been charged with being a Communist.

On the surface, everything was still serene.

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

Without warning, the Congressional Committee compelled Whittaker Chambers to testify before it on August 3, 1948. Chambers told of his own former Communist connections, and gave the names of about a dozen persons, including Alger Hiss, as members of an underground organization of the Communist Party.

Hiss rushed to the Committee the following day [August 5, 1948], and, under oath, denied having seen, or ever having

heard of, Chambers; and denied all of Chambers' statements as "complete fabrications".

This raised a direct issue of veracity between Hiss and Chambers, as to whether they had ever known each other. This was Hiss' first fatal error in throwing the question of Chambers' truthfulness into the public forum of a political Congressional investigation.

For 35 days, the Committee examined 20 or 30 witnesses, whose 300 pages of testimony may be thus briefly summarized:

First: Chambers gave a blunt, straightforward, positive, and unqualified statement of facts, supported by multitudinous private details — which one person could not have known about another person, unless they had been very closely associated. It showed three years of close intimacy between Chambers and Hiss; and between their families [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 confessed 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 specific, chronological account of his slight knowledge of "Crosley" during five months [May-September, 1935]; and said (1) that he never saw "Crosley" more than 8 or 10 times; and (2) that he never saw or thought of him after 1935.

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

Third: Suddenly, the Congressional Committee introduced 17 outside witnesses. Their testimony (supported by all kinds of public and private contemporaneous written records) tore Hiss' story to pieces.

I have not the time to list all of Hiss' untruthful statements. There were plenty of them. Chambers' statements have never been disputed except by Mr. and Mrs. Hiss.

Hiss' \$75,000 Libel Suit against Chambers

Hiss threatened to sue Chambers for libel, if Chambers would publicly state that Hiss was a Communist. Chambers instantly accepted the challenge; and, in a radio broadcast, said:

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

Public opinion then forced Hiss to sue Chambers for \$75,000 damages for libel.

That was Hiss' second fatal error, as it threw the Chambers-Hiss veracity controversy into the arena of the Federal civil Courts.

On November 17, 1948, Hiss made his third, and greatest, error, when he took Chambers' deposition for future use on the libel suit trial. Under judicial compulsion, Chambers produced 47 papers; 4 were in Hiss'

own handwriting; 43 were typewritten copies of the most secret and confidential State Department documents; and those 43 typewritten papers were all written by Mrs. Hiss, on her own private Woodstock typewriter.

The Congressional Committee heard of those 47 documents; and immediately subpoenaed Chambers to produce any other papers he had. He produced microfilm copies of scores of confidential and secret documents which had been abstracted from the State Department. In order to defeat any Communist effort to get 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.

Hiss' fourth great error consisted in throwing his controversy with Chambers into the hands of a Federal Grand Jury.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and Mr. and Mrs. Hiss were all 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 47 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 were the simple questions:

1. Did Hiss lie when he said he did not give Chambers any State Department documents, or copies of State Department

documents, in or around February and March, 1938?

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

The two Trials

Hiss' first trial (May 31-July 8, 1949) ended in a hung jury, which voted 8 to 4 for conviction.

His second trial (November 17, 1949-January 22, 1950) ended in an unanimous verdict that he was guilty of perjury on both charges, 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, as Hiss insisted, were they barely acquainted?

If close friends and associated Communists, they might naturally have joined in deep and dangerous treason. 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) give Chambers secret State Department documents, or copies of them?

The Trials

FIRST: When Chambers testified before the Congressional Committee, he told his story simply. Every one of his facts has been corroborated.

For example, he said (1) he knew the Hisses "socially"; and Mrs. Hiss testified before the Grand Jury that Mr. Hiss was a "social" acquaintance; (2) that he lived in Mr. Hiss' 28th Street Apartment for a good many weeks, and Mr. Hiss admitted it;

(3) that at times he and his family stayed in Hiss' "P" Street House, which the Hisses admitted; (4) that Hiss had a Ford, which he wanted to give to some poor Communist. More than a year after Hiss claimed he had given the Ford to Chambers, the Government's records showed that Hiss, under his own signature, had transferred the Ford to one Rosen at a fictitious address -- which Chambers could never have known if he had not gotten those facts directly from Hiss in the first place; (5) that Chambers 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; (6) 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".

Chambers said that on Tuesday, November 23, 1937, he bought a new Ford automobile, by trading in an old car and paying \$487.25 cash, which he said Hiss drew out from bank and turned over to him. The records of the

Riggs National Bank in Washington showed that on Friday, November 19, 1937, Mrs. Hiss drew \$400 in cash from her savings account, and 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 before 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 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 Crosley"; 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 Crosley" (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 484. 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 same 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 (1) copies of many secret State Department documents; and (2) originals of others, for Chambers to have microfilmed, and to give the microfilms 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 — not by 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 come into existence.

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

- (1) 4 small sheets about this size

[INDICATING], which Hiss admitted he had written, dated, and signed in his own handwriting.

- (2) 43 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 (a) the copies, and also (b) 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 trial jury that convicted Hiss.

Hiss' admissions:

- (a) Hiss admitted that he wrote, dated and signed the 4 small sheets which were summaries of very confidential State Department documents.
- (b) Hiss admitted that the 43 typewritten documents were precise and absolute typewritten copies of 43 original secret documents which the State Department received in January-March, 1938.

(c) Hiss admitted that the microfilms were photographs of similar original State Department documents received from Europe in January-March, 1938.

(d) The Government also proved all those admitted facts, by bringing the 43 original cables down to the jury, and comparing them with the 43 Chambers documents — all right before the jury.

(e) The Government then 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 wrote, typed, and signed both letters on her own private Woodstock typewriter, which her father had given to her about 20 years before.

(f) The Government proved, and Mr. Hiss admitted before the jury, that the 43 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.

(g) 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 produced not one, but 43 typewritten copies of the Government's most secret documents. Mr. Hiss admitted (a) 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 (b) had been written on his wife's Woodstock typewriter.

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

Mrs. Hiss swore that they were written on her typewriter, but that 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 43 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 first 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 Mrs. Catlett alive and healthy.

Then Mrs. Hiss "cooked 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; that they 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.

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 these mistakes, made in each of the letters Mrs. Hiss wrote, and then made in the 43 documents produced by Chambers, show that Mrs. Hiss, 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

No one has ever suggested any way the 43 documents produced by Chambers could have been written by anyone, except by Mrs. Hiss.

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

Comparison of Oscar Wilde and Alger Hiss.

"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."

1910
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THE STORY OF ALGER HISS

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Wm. Marshall Bullitt.

DR. BOATMAN, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I propose to give you a bird's eye view
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27
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Termination of Hiss-Chambers Intimacy
[1938]

In 1938, after many months of tortured self-reflection, Chambers repudiated the doctrines of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and became convinced that Communism was a form of totalitarianism, whose triumph meant slavery to all men under their sway, and spiritual night to the human mind and soul. Chambers silently broke with Communism; fled into hiding for more than a year (fearful of Communist vengeance upon himself and his family); and also tried to persuade Hiss to break with the Communists. Hiss, in tears, refused to do so.

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

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August, 1939.

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W. W. Remington
Main Communist*

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[1935-1938]

Two leading Communists introduced Chambers to Hiss as a disciplined fellow-Communist; and thus began four years of very close personal, and Communist, intimacy between Hiss and Chambers.

During those years of closest intimacy, Hiss took out of the State Department hundreds of the most secret and important Government documents and gave them to Chambers to send to Russians.

1938-1948

For the next ten years Hiss lived a life of secret dread and terror — for "Terror haunts the guilty mind". The F.B.I. repeatedly questioned Hiss about his Communism. That added further terror to Hiss' daily and nightly fear of discovery.

In April, 1946, Secretary of State Byrnes told Hiss that several Members of Congress were about to denounce him on the floor of the House as a Communist; that it was a very serious matter, and sprung from the F.B.I.; and that Hiss ought to go directly to the F.B.I. and demand a full inquiry and investigation — but Hiss did not do so.

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

At the same time [April 1946], the Carnegie Endowment happened to be seeking a new President, at a salary of \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. Upon the strong

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

~~Hiss did not tell the Carnegie Endowment
that he had ever been charged with being a
Communist.~~

On the surface, everything was still
serene.

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

Without warning, the Congressional
Committee compelled Whittaker Chambers to
testify before it on August 3, 1948.
Chambers told of his own former Communist
connections, and gave the names of about a
dozen persons, including Alger Hiss, as
members of an underground organization of
the Communist Party.

Hiss rushed to the Committee the
following day [August 5, 1948], and, under
oath, denied having seen, or ever having

heard of, Chambers; and denied all of Chambers' statements as "complete fabrications".

This raised a direct issue of veracity between Hiss and Chambers, as to whether they had ever known each other. This was Hiss' first fatal error in throwing the question of Chambers' truthfulness into the public forum of a political Congressional Investigation.

For 35 days, the Committee examined 20 or 30 witnesses, whose 800 pages of testimony may be thus briefly summarized:

First: Chambers gave a blunt, straightforward, positive, and unqualified statement of facts, supported by multitudinous private details — which one person could not have known about another person, unless they had been very closely associated. It showed three years of close intimacy between Chambers and Hiss; and between their families [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 confessed 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 specific, chronological account of his slight knowledge of "Crosley" during five months [May-September, 1935]; and said (1) that he never saw "Crosley" more than 8 or 10 times; and (2) that he never saw or thought of him after 1935.

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

Third: Suddenly, the Congressional Committee introduced 17 outside witnesses. Their testimony (supported by all kinds of public and private contemporaneous written records) tore Hiss' story to pieces.

I have not the time to list all of Hiss' untruthful statements. There were plenty of them. Chambers' statements have never been disputed except by Mr. and Mrs. Hiss.

Hiss' \$75,000 Libel Suit against Chambers

Hiss threatened to sue Chambers for libel, if Chambers would publicly state that Hiss was a Communist. Chambers instantly accepted the challenge; and, in a radio broadcast, said:

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

~~Public opinion then forced Hiss to sue~~
~~in Baltimore Federal Court~~
Chambers for \$75,000 damages for libel.

That was Hiss' second fatal error, as it threw the Chambers-Hiss veracity controversy into the arena of the Federal civil Courts.

On November 17, 1948, Hiss made his third, and greatest, error, when he took Chambers' deposition for future use on the libel suit trial. Under ~~judicial~~ ^{legal} compulsion, Chambers produced 47 papers; 4 were in Hiss'

own handwriting; 43 were typewritten copies of the most secret and confidential State Department documents; and those 43 typewritten papers were all written by Mrs. Hiss, on her own private Woodstock typewriter.

The Congressional Committee heard of those 47 documents; and immediately subpoenaed Chambers to produce any other papers he had. He produced microfilm copies of scores of confidential and secret documents which had been abstracted from the State Department. In order to defeat any Communist effort to get 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.

Hiss' fourth great error consisted in throwing his controversy with Chambers into the hands of a Federal Grand Jury.

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

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

A
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 47 Baltimore documents for the same purpose.

B
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 were the simple questions:

1. Did Hiss lie when he said he did not give Chambers any State Department documents, or copies of State Department

documents, in or around February and March, 1938?

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

The two Trials

Hiss' first trial (May 31-July 8, 1949) ended in a hung jury, which voted 8 to 4 for conviction.

His second trial (November 17, 1949-January 22, 1950) ended in an unanimous verdict that he was guilty of perjury on both charges, 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, as Hiss insisted, were they barely acquainted?

If close friends and associated Communists, they might naturally have joined in deep and dangerous treason. 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) give Chambers secret State Department documents, or copies of them?

The Trials

FIRST: When Chambers testified before the Congressional Committee, he told his story simply. Every one of his facts has been corroborated.

Abbreviate hereon
For example, he said (1) he knew the Hisses "socially"; and Mrs. Hiss testified before the Grand Jury that Mr. Hiss was a "social" acquaintance; (2) that he lived in Mr. Hiss' 28th Street Apartment for a good many weeks, and Mr. Hiss admitted it;

(3) that at times he and his family stayed in Hiss' "P" Street House, which the Hisses admitted; (4) that Hiss had a Ford, which he wanted to give to some poor Communist. More than a year after Hiss claimed he had given the Ford to Chambers, the Government's records showed that Hiss, under his own signature, had transferred the Ford to one Rosen at a fictitious address — which Chambers could never have known if he had not gotten those facts directly from Hiss in the first place; (5) that Chambers 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; (6) 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".

#400 Chambers said that on Tuesday, November 23, 1937, he bought a new Ford automobile, by trading in an old car and paying \$487.25 cash, which he said Hiss drew out from bank and turned over to him. The records of the

Riggs National Bank in Washington showed that on Friday, November 19, 1937, Mrs. Hiss drew \$400 in cash from her savings account, and 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 before 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 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 damned thing".

The Government proved by innumerable witnesses that there never was a "George Crosley"; 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 Crosley" (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.

Rug episode

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 same 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 (1) copies of many secret State Department documents; and (2) originals of others, for Chambers to have microfilmed, and to give the microfilms to the Soviet Government.

Important
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 — not by 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 come into existence.

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

(1) 4 small sheets about this size [INDICATING], which Hiss admitted he had written, dated, and signed in his own handwriting.

(2) 43 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 (a) the copies, and also (b) 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 trial jury that convicted Hiss.

Hiss' admissions:

(a) Hiss admitted that he wrote, dated and signed the 4 small sheets which were summaries of very confidential State Department documents.

(b) Hiss admitted that the 43 typewritten documents were precise and absolute typewritten copies of 43 original secret documents which the State Department received in January-March, 1938.

(c) Hiss admitted that the microfilms were photographs of similar original State Department documents received from Europe in January-March, 1938.

(d) The Government also proved all those admitted facts, by bringing the 43 original cables down to the jury, and comparing them with the 43 Chambers documents — all right before the jury.

(e) The Government then 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 wrote, typed, and signed both letters on her own private Woodstock typewriter, which her father had given to her about 20 years before.

(f) The Government proved, and Mr. Hiss admitted before the jury, that the 43 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.

(g) 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 produced not one, but 43
typewritten copies of the Government's most
secret documents. Mr. Hiss admitted (a)
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 (b) had been
written on his wife's Woodstock typewriter.

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

Mrs. Hiss swore that they were written
on her typewriter, but that 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 43 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 first 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 Mrs. Catlett alive and healthy.

Then Mrs. Hiss "cooked 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; that they 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.

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 43 documents produced by Chambers,
show that Mrs. Hiss, 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

No one has ever suggested any way the 43 documents produced by Chambers could have been written by anyone, except by Mrs. Hiss.

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

Comparison of Oscar Wilde and Alger Hiss.

"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."

1400 - Union College Speech

UNION COLLEGE

CONWAY BOATMAN
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Elsie Forman, Secretary to the President

BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY

June 14, 1950

Mr. William Marshall Bullitt
Bullitt, Dawson & Tarrant
The Seventeenth Floor
Kentucky Home Life Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky


Dear Mr. Bullitt:

I remember that you were very definite in our conversation that you could come to us to speak this fall in our beautiful new chapel to the student body of Union College. I was very thankful when you gave me that assurance. I am wondering, however, whether I could persuade you as a substitute to come to us for our summer commencement, which is scheduled for July 12 10:30 a.m. Eastern Standard time. There will be nearly 500 students and faculty to hear your address as we have a large summer school attendance. A portion of the large 1950 graduating class will receive their degrees at that time.

We shall be happy for you to choose your own subject for discourse. It will be convenient for you to come the evening before and spend the night with us in our guest room at Pfeiffer Hall and I am hoping that Mrs. Bullitt can come with you. I do hope that you can come at this time and pay us a visit and enjoy this beautiful section of the country.

Awaiting your immediate reply, I am

Faternally,


President

CB/f

July 8, 1950

Conway Boatman, Esq.,
President,
Union College,
Barbourville, Kentucky,

My dear Dr. Boatman:

When I received your very kind letter of June 14, I was first in hopes that I could be there on July 12 to help you out, and that is why I procrastinated about writing to you.

I am very, very sorry that I was immediately called to New York, and was there and in Philadelphia and Baltimore for a good while -- and then I found that the Jefferson Circuit Court has assigned to trial on July 12 a very important case which I have got to argue.

I am deeply sorry, but if sometime next winter you can find an occasion when I can come up and address the College, I will be delighted to do so.

Very sincerely yours,

WMB-LHJ

UNION COLLEGE

CONWAY BOATMAN
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Elsie Forman, Secretary to the President

BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY

October 6, 1950
(Dictated October 5, 1950)

The Honorable William Marshall Bullitt
Bullitt, Dawson & Tarrant
The Seventeenth Floor
Kentucky Home Life Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Bullitt:

It was very good of you yesterday when I called at your office to assure me that you will be here as our speaker on Monday, November 13, 10 a.m. Eastern Standard time. You will have about 500 young people and faculty in your audience and I am hoping that we can get a hundred or more townspeople and friends of yours in this area also to be present. Now, remember, that we are expecting you and Mrs. Bullitt as our guests Sunday evening November 12. We have a delightful guest room which you will enjoy. It is really necessary for you to come Sunday evening in order to be here for Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

We are announcing your visit and your address on the subject "The Story of Alger Hiss" and repeated announcements will be given to the press and you will have a great audience and the college will have here on the campus a great speaker. Your wonderful career and rich experience plus your personal ability would make any college take pride in having you as a speaker. I am very happy that you are coming and here is hoping that you continue to have good health.

With warmest regards, I am

Fraternally,

Conway Boatman
President

CB/f

UNION COLLEGE

CONWAY BOATMAN
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Elsie Forman, Secretary to the President

BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY

November 7, 1950

The Honorable William Marshall Bullitt
Bullitt, Dawson & Tarrant
The Seventeenth Floor
Kentucky Home Life Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Bullitt:

As has been announced in the press, and is being re-announced in the press this week, we are expecting you here to give that great address on Alger Hiss next Monday 10 o'clock Eastern Standard time. Please note that this is Eastern Standard time.

Of course, we are expecting that you will come down Sunday afternoon and spend the night with us and are hoping that Mrs. Bullitt can come with you. We have a nice guest room which we are reserving for you. However, should you definitely prefer a hotel, I would recommend that you stop at the Wilbur Hotel, Corbin, which is only seventeen miles distance from us and you could drive then the next morning easily. However, we most cordially invite you to be our guest over Sunday night and as long as you would like to stay with us. The guest room is being reserved for your occupancy any time on Sunday afternoon, November 12th.

I am certain you will have a large appreciative audience of students, faculty and citizens of this area. It is a great honor for our college and I am sure your visit and fellowship will be an inspiration to all of our people.

Faternally,

C. Boatman
President

CB/r

Union College Speech
The Story of Alger Hiss

November 8, 1950

Dr. Conway Boatman,
Union College,
Barbourville, Kentucky,

Dear Dr. Boatman:

I have your letter of November 7.

Mrs. Bullitt will not be able to come with me, as Lady Manton arrives that day from London for a long visit to us.

I shall be delighted to spend Sunday night with you and Mrs. Boatman, which will be far more comfortable and agreeable to me than staying at a Corbin hotel.

I will find out whether I can go to Barbourville more quickly by train or by motoring up; and will let you know as soon as I can find out the train schedules on Sunday.

The results of yesterday's election cannot have pleased very much Mr. Hiss and his friends.

I am looking forward with the greatest pleasure to making the little address on next Monday at 10 A.M. Eastern Standard Time.

Ever faithfully yours,

WMB-LHJ

Union College Speed
His

November 14, 1950

Dr. Conway Boatman,
President,
Union College,
Barbourville, Kentucky,

Dear Dr. Boatman:

My very first act, on getting in, is to express to you my own delight at having had the opportunity to see Union College, its physical make-up — with such handsome buildings and the most amazing cleanliness, neatness and efficiency of every internal arrangement — and to have seen personally such a splendid looking lot of students, both male and female; and also to thank you and Mrs. Boatman for the delightful Sunday evening I had with you, and the opportunity then and later to meet so many of your College Professors.

I have nothing but the very highest compliments for the great work you have done in the last ten or twelve years. I have never been to any educational institution that was so beautifully and carefully kept.

With the kindest and affectionate regards for Mrs. Boatman and yourself, I am,

Ever faithfully yours,

P.S. After the above was dictated, I received your College News of October, 1950, and was interested in the study that your Trustees will make on the admission of Negroes. Inasmuch as the question is limited to "day students" only, while I have my

[14 Nov 1950]

Dr. Boatman #2

own personal views on the whole subject (which will doubtless not be in accordance either with yours or those of your Trustees and Faculty), still in the event of a decision to admit them as "day students", I should think that in view of the high standard of your splendid College it would be advisable that Negroes not even be admitted as "day students", except where they might show very remarkable aptitude for intellectual advancement and personal neatness and cleanliness — on the same level as your other students.

Doubtless you will not agree to this, but I pass it on as my private, confidential view.

W.M.B.

WMB-LHJ

The Story of Alger Hiss
Speech
UNION COLLEGE

CONWAY BOATMAN
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Elsie Forman, Secretary to the President

BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY

November 16, 1950

Mr. William Marshall Bullitt
Bullitt, Dawson & Tarrant
The Seventeenth Floor
Kentucky Home Life Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Bullitt:

Yesterday we received your letter announcing your arrival home and an expression of appreciation of your visit with us. I certainly want to reciprocate and say that this college is indebted to you for your splendid address on last Monday and for the delightful fellowship that all of us had together during the time of your visit. The only thing that marred your visit was the absence of Mrs. Bullitt. I do hope that the next time you are on our campus she can be with you.

I have heard many words of commendation from faculty and students concerning your address. You had so much material to present that it was not easy to make selection and organize and present the story. All of us here think that you did a most excellent job. I think that the story of Alger Hiss furnishes good material for the thinking of our young people and therefore make a good contribution to their education and training for citizenship.

I do hope to see you sometime in December when I can come to Louisville and I am thinking that you will be in the city along about the 10th to the 15th of December. Meanwhile, I want you to know that we recognize how very busy you are and a man of your reputation cannot often get away and come to the campus of a small college, so we feel that your coming was a real compliment to our institution. We do strive here to maintain the kind of college that will be an honor to the State and a great service to the youth in this section. Many prominent citizens of central and western Kentucky really do not know the excellent quality of Union College and one of our problems is to help them to know the values that are maintained here in the great cause of Christian Education. This college renders a great service for the citizens of this state in preparing young people for many professions and careers.

Looking forward to seeing you next month and with warmest regards, I am

Fraternally,

C. Boatman
President

CB/f