A FACTUAL REVIEW

of

The Whittaker Chambers—Alger Hiss Controversy

by

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(Written in Nassau, Bahamas, November 27-December 4, 1948, while convalescing from pneumonia.)

There is no evidence now available to prove directly:

First: Whether Whittaker Chambers told the truth when he testified that Alger Hiss had been a member of a small underground Communist "group" whose object was to infiltrate (into higher levels of the Government service) persons of sympathetic views, who could be useful to the Communist Party; or

Second: Whether Alger Hiss told the truth when he denied all connection with Communism, or such a "group", or any interest in its objectives.

The respective credibilities of Chambers and Hiss may be evaluated from (1) Public and private records; (2) Testimony of disinterested third parties; (3) The conduct of a number of persons more or less personally, socially, or officially acquainted with Chambers and Hiss; and (most important of all) (4) The attitudes and characteristics of Chambers and Hiss deducible from their testimony.

The purpose of this "Review" is to aid in such an evaluation, based solely upon a study of the Official Hearings.

Outline of the Preliminary Congressional Hearings 1

[August 3—September 9, 1948]

1. August 3, 1948: Chambers' initial testimony: On Tuesday, August 3, Whittaker Chambers testified before an Open Session of the Committee regarding (1) his own life as a former paid Communist functionary; (2) a small Communist "underground" group (which had been developed by Harold Ware, son of the Communist leader known as "Mother Bloor"), the head of which group was, first, Nathan Witt, an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, and later, John Abt; the others being Lee Pressman, Alger Hiss, Donald Hiss, Victor Perlo, Charles

Kramer,⁹ Harold Ware,² Henry Collins,¹⁰ and J. Peters,¹¹ with the object of "Communist infiltration of the American Government" (565); (3) a general description of the group's *personnel*, activities, etc.; and (4) his own repudiation of Communism in late 1937 and early 1938 (564, et seq; Cf. 565, 1178, 1196-7, 1285, 1289).

His few references to Alger Hiss (565, 567-8, 572, 576-7, 578-580) did not specifically state that Hiss was a Communist, 12 but did identify him as one of the "group", with his various former official Governmental positions and his present office as "head of the Carnegie Endowment"; described Chambers' unsuccessful effort in 1938 to persuade Hiss "to break away from the [Communist] party" (572); and, in late August, 1939, Chambers' warning to Assistant Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle of "Communist activities in Washington", naming Hiss among others (580; Cf. 1293).

2. August 5: Hiss' initial testimony: Hiss promptly read the newspaper accounts of Chambers' testimony of August 3 (646); and, at an Open Meeting of the Committee

¹ Page references are to the printed "Hearings before the Committee on Un-American Activities", pages 501-1378, 80th Congress, 2nd Session; and will be cited by number only, *i. e.* "(565)", etc.

A few events occurring after December 4, 1948 are also mentioned.

² (565-6). Apparently in the Department of Agriculture; accidentally killed in Pennsylvania (575); Hiss knew Ware (652, 1147, 1169, 1353); and Chambers "believes" that it was Ware who first introduced him to Hiss (1178, 1180).

³ Witt had seven and a half years (1933-1940) of important service in the Government (1029).

⁴ Abt had five years (1933-1938) in important positions in the AAA, WPA, SEC, Senate Committee, and Attorney General's Office (1016).

⁵ Pressman had two years (1933-1935) in AAA and as General Counsel of WPA (1022).

⁶ Alger Hiss had fifteen years (1929-30, 1933-46) of important Government service (644-5, 656-7).

⁷ Donald Hiss' connection with the Government was very incidental (Cf. 929-30, 1351).

⁸ Victor Perlo's numerous Governmental positions (1933-1946) were in the NRA, Home Owners Loan Corporation, Department of Commerce, OPA, WPB and Treasury Department (678-681).

⁹ Charles Kramer's thirteen years (1933-1946) were in the AAA, NYA, NLRB, OPA and various Senate sub-Committees (819).

² See Note ².

¹⁰ Henry Collins' several years were in NRA, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Labor, and House and Senate Committees (802).

¹¹ J. Peters (alias Goldberger and Alexander Stevens) introduced Chambers to Ware and to Hiss. For Peters' record as a Communist leader see 1267-1277, 1278-1283.

Recently J. Peters left the United States.

It is unnecessary to go further into the details of the "group's" personnel and their individual histories as Communists, subsequently developed in the Hearings.

¹² It was not until four days later (August 7) that Chambers said that "Mr. Hiss was a member of the Communist Party" (662-3).

held the following day (August 5; 642-659), Hiss voluntarily and emphatically,

- (a) Denied having known, seen, or even heard of, Chambers 13 (643);
- (b) Denied Chambers' statements as "complete fabrications" (643, 647, 649, 650).

Hiss then gave lengthy, impressive, and apparently convincing, testimony (Cf. 659) upon the following lines:

First: His own complete freedom from Communism or its influences ¹⁴ (643, 648);

SECOND: His personal high level of (i) education (643-4); (ii) important public and private positions held (644-5, 656-9); and (iii) his close friends in high public life (644-5, 648);

Third: His obvious and voluntary depreciation, dis-association, and minimization of his connection with a number of undesirable persons (with whom his acquaintance was undeniable), who were later identified as Communists or associated therewith, such as Lee Pressman, Nathan Witt, John Abt, Charles Kramer, Harold Ware, Henry Collins, Frank Coe, Nathan Silvermaster, Abraham Silverman and J. Peters (643, 649-659)—most of whom subsequently (on the ground of self-incrimination) refused to say whether they were Communists, or

even knew Hiss or Chambers (Cf. 802, 804, 810; 819, 1018; 1023; 804, 809; 821; 1019; 1024; 1032; 805, 820-21; 1019; 1024; 1032; Cf. Hiss 970-1);

FOURTH: Hiss denied knowing that (in August, 1939), Chambers had told Assistant Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle that Hiss—then in the State Department—was, or had been, a member of an undercover Communist "group" (646, 649; Cf. 1292, et seq.).

But Hiss has admitted:

- (i) That as far back as 1938-1940 he was summoned to the F. B. I. office in Washington for questioning—apparently being accused as a Red (971);
- (ii) That in March or April, 1946, Secretary of State Byrnes (former Mr. Justice Byrnes)

"called me into his office. He said that several Members of Congress were preparing to make statements on the floor of Congress that I was a Communist. He asked me if I were, and I said I was not.

He said 'This is a very serious matter. I think all the stories center from the F. B. I. I think they are the people who have obtained whatever information has been obtained. I think you would be well advised to go directly to the F. B. I. and offer yourself for a very full inquiry and investigation.'

He also said he thought it would be sensible for me to go to the top man, and I agreed"; (648, 937)

(iii) That he saw the F. B. I., who asked him if he knew Lee Pressman and others, but they did not mention Chambers' name (Id);

Hiss did not tell Carnegie Endowment's Trustees, nor Mr. Dulles (nor any of the other Trustees who urged Hiss' election as President, 645-6, 659, 1133, 1135) anything about either the F. B. I. questioning, or even the

¹⁸ Until in May, 1947, when two F. B. I. men had asked him whether he had ever known or heard of anyone named Whittaker Chambers, and he replied that he had not (643, 647-650; Cf. 936-8).

¹⁴ At the end of his initial testimony (658-9), Hiss was evasive; and he relied on the technique of an "iffy" question to avoid committing himself on whether it was safe or desirable for the Government to employ Communists. In view of the subsequent disclosures of his Communistic acquaintances, to some the term "fellow-traveler" might come to mind.

shortly previous Secretary of State Byrnes—Members of Congress—F. B. I. belief in, or investigation of, Hiss as a Communist (1133-1135), with an evasiveness, or lack of frankness, in his answers quite calculated not to reveal the facts (Cf. 646, 1133, 1135, see pp. 25-29, *infra*).

- (iv) That in December, 1946—after his election as President of the Carnegie Endowment, but before assuming that office—Mr. Dulles told him "that he [Dulles] had heard reports that people had called me [Hiss] a Communist" (1133). That admission was not in Hiss' initial testimony of August 5, and was not elicited from him until August 25 (1133-1135); ^{14a} the fateful day, page 7, infra.
- (v) That in May, 1947, two F. B. I. men called on him at his "Carnegie Endowment" Washington office, and asked him (a) if he was a Communist, (b) a number of questions not unlike the points Mr. Chambers had testified to, and (c) whether he knew a number of named people, one of which was Whittaker Chambers, whose name he had never heard before (647-8, 936-7);
- (vi) That last winter [1947] he had "heard indirectly that a man named Chambers was calling me a Communist" (647);
- (vii) That on the night of August 2, 1948, a New York newspaper reporter said he had a tip that on the next day (August 3), Chambers would testify before the Committee and "call me a Communist" (647).

This "Statement of Relations" was written by Mr. Dulles and circulated among the Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment during early 1949.

Hiss' admissions thus established these facts:

(a) That when he was elected President of the Carnegie Endowment, Hiss knew he had been, or still was, under serious investigation by the F. B. I., by Members of Congress, and by Secretary of State Byrnes, in whose office he was, as to whether he was a Communist (647-8, 971). The Carnegie Endowment was not told those facts on the day (December 9, 1946) when its Special Committee first mentioned Mr. Hiss' name for President, nominated him therefor, suspended the rules, and elected him—all with probably not more than ten or fifteen minutes' consideration.

Mr. Hiss had not even told Mr. Dulles, or anyone else, of the then very recent F. B. I.—Byrnes investigation (1132-3, 1135).

- (b) That after his election as President of the Carnegie Endowment on December 9, 1946—but before he assumed office—Mr. Dulles told him that he [Dulles] "had heard reports that people called me [Hiss] a Communist" and "I [assumed] that Mr. Dulles was satisfied that there was nothing to the reports" (1133-1135); again, Hiss did not reveal to Mr. Dulles the Secretary of State Byrnes—members of Congress—F. B. I. investigation of his Communism; and his answers to the Congressional inquiries on that subject were not frank, but were obviously evasive (Cf. 1133-1135).
- (c) That shortly after he assumed the Presidency of the Carnegie Endowment, Hiss knew he was still under continued investigation by the F. B. I., and also by outside gossip, as to whether he was a Communist; but he still did not tell Mr. Dulles, or the Trustees, or the Executive Committee (936-937, 1133-1135).

¹⁴a Mr. Dulles fixes the time of that interview as on, or more likely after, January 2, 1947. (See "Statement of Relations between Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Mr. Alger Hiss" pp. 3-4; hereafter cited as "Statement of Relations".)

The Congressional Committee criticized that silence of Mr. Hiss towards the Endowment (1133-1135).

In February, 1948 there was again a report "that Mr. Hiss had had communist contacts". Mr. Dulles searchingly questioned him on that point. Hiss denied it, but admitted that he had just been questioned by the New York Grand Jury on that subject. Some [unnamed] State Department Official, peculiarly in a position to know the facts, reassured Mr. Dulles of Hiss' loyalty and reliability. 14b

Six months later, August 4, 1948, the newspapers blazoned the news of Chambers' previous day's hearing before the "Un-American Activities" Committee, containing the charge that Hiss was a Communist.

Despite (1) Mr. Dulles' prompt, semi-official suggestion that Mr. Hiss should voluntarily resign and relieve the Endowment of embarrassment, and (2) the transfer of its administrative direction to other hands, Hiss did not do so. ("Statement of Relations" p. 6.)

In view of the apparent contradictions between the initial testimonies of Mr. Chambers and Mr. Hiss, the Congressional Committee began thereafter to caution each of them, and some other witnesses, that their testimony was subject to the penalties for perjury.

3. August 7: Chambers' further testimony concerning his alleged acquaintanceship with Alger Hiss. In reply to the Committee's 176 pointed questions [concerning Chambers' alleged acquaintance with Hiss], Chambers' answers were short, clear and positive, never ambiguous, and rarely even qualified as "I think" (covering, all told, only 11 printed pages, 662-672).

Instead of summarizing separately the testimony of Chambers and Hiss at their fifteen appearances as witnesses, ¹⁶ it is better to give a chronological statement of the facts as told by Chambers and by Hiss, respectively—supplemented by some facts conclusively established by independent and impartial third party testimony and records.

This procedure will simplify the reader's task in contrasting the contradictory stories told by Chambers and Hiss.

It is important to bear that procedure in mind, when contrasting Chambers' testimony (which was rarely, if ever, subsequently modified) with that of Hiss (which was constantly modified to conform to unexpected and uncontradicted evidence of entirely impartial and disinterested third parties).

¹⁶ 1948	Chambers	1948	Hiss
Aug. 3	(563-584)	Aug. 5	(642-659)
Aug. 7	(661-672)	Aug. 16	(935-974)
Aug. 17	(986)	Aug. 17	(975-986)
Aug. 25	(1078-1079)		(986-1001)
	(1176-1206)	Aug. 25	(1076-1078)
Aug. 27	(1255-1266)		(1079-1111)
Aug. 30	(1271)		(1115-1176)
	(1278-1290)		`

¹⁴b In view of (1) Mr. Acheson's public statement of December 10, 1946 that Mr. Hiss' State Department work was of "outstanding devotion and ability", for the previous ten years, as "one of its very best men" who was one of the "really basic causes for the success" of the United Nations San Francisco Conference; and (2) the subsequent 1948 State Department endorsement of Mr. Hiss, mentioned in the text, Mr. Dulles doubtless felt it unnecessary to report the matter to the Carnegie Trustees, though he did mention it to some of the New York Trustees.

The Carnegie Endowment thus remained in ignorance of the 1946-1948 reports or rumors of Hiss' alleged Communism connections (see "Statement of Relations" pp. 4-5, supra, p. 7)

¹⁵ On account of the initial direct contradiction between Chambers and Hiss as to even knowing each other, and in order to test their stories, the Committee thereafter held Executive Sessions, so that neither Chambers nor Hiss would know what the other (or some other witnesses) might have said, so as to prevent a witness from shifting his story to meet unexpected evidence. That procedure was followed at the subsequent Hearings on August 7, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 30, and September 8, 9. During the Public Hearing of August 25, the Committee released the testimony taken at the Executive Sessions of August 7, 16, 17, 18, 24; and later that of August 26, 27, 30, and September 8, 9.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

I. Chambers' Testimony.

In 1924, Whittaker Chambers,¹⁷ at age 23, joined the American Communist Party in New York. He continued in it for about 13 or 14 years (1924-1938), during which period he wrote for, and was editor of, the "Daily Worker" and "New Masses"—Communist papers; he was a paid functionary of the Party, acted as courier between New York and the Washington "underground" Communist "cells" or "groups", and was himself a leader of the "underground" organization (564, et seq., 986, 1176-8, 1180, 1263).¹⁸

In late 1934, Harold Ware ² and J. Peters ¹¹ [leaders in the "underground" of the Communist Party, 565, 569, 1271, 1278, et seq.; Cf. 1267-1277], introduced Chambers (a) to Alger Hiss (1078, 1178-1180, 1280) as a fellow-Communist (662-664, 669, 1181, 1189); and (b) to the "underground group" of the Communist Party in Washington (1180, 1181, 1280). The seven or eight members of that "underground" group (including Hiss, pp. 2, 3, supra) would meet in Henry Collins' Apartment in St. Matthews Court (568-9, 575, 1180, 1181, 1284; Cf. Hiss' dubious denial (651, et seq., 938-9, 1171-2).

Hiss was not present more than five times at Collins' Apartment, "because we separated Mr. Alger Hiss from that group rather early" in order "to set up a parallel

¹⁷ Born in Philadelphia; a member of the Episcopal Church; and now at age 47, he is "a Quaker by convincement" (1198-1199).

group of men whose opportunities for penetrating into the Government and arriving at positions of power and influence seemed best" (1181, 576, 579); as Hiss was rising in the Government (576-7, 644-5).

Not long after first meeting Hiss, Chambers was "constantly" a visitor at Hiss' 28th Street Apartment (986, 992, 1178-9, 181, 1182)—at least twenty times (1178). Soon thereafter, Chambers became one of Hiss' closest friends (572, 670, 986, 1190, 1199; Cf. 662, 1178, 1078-9).

For several years Chambers collected Hiss' Communist Party dues (569, 571, 663, 670, 1181-2). Neither Hiss, nor the "underground" group, knew Chambers by his real name, but only by the Communist code name of "Carl" (662, 670, 953, 1193-4, 1205, 1257, 1259, 1260, 1263).

Hiss' Dilapidated "1929 Ford" Roadster. In 1934, when Chambers first met Hiss, the latter owned a black, dilapidated 1929 Ford Roadster, with hand worked windshield wipers (666, 1183). Hiss never sold, gave, leased, or loaned the 1929 Ford to Chambers (1179, 1182); and Chambers never used or drove the 1929 Ford, except to go to Westminster, Md., with Hiss who drove the car (p. 14, infra); but Hiss continued to own the 1929 Ford long after September 7, 1935, when he then purchased a new Plymouth Sedan (1095, 1120, 1183).

On May 1, 1935, Hiss rented (until June 15, 1936) No. 2905 P Street, which was a fully furnished house (1085, 1044, 1046, 956, 983). At some undetermined date late in

¹⁸ On July 1, 1934 Alger Hiss (who previously lived at No. 3411—"O" Street), rented, fully furnished, Apartment No. 42 at 2831—28th Street, Washington—the lease to expire June 28, 1935. This Apartment will be referred to as the 28th Street Apartment.

¹⁹ On September 19, 1933, shortly after Hiss first entered official Government service, in 1933 (644), he registered a 1929 Ford, Model A, Register No. 2188811, Tag No. 245647, in the name of Alger Hiss, No. 3411 O Street N. W., Washington, D. C. (hereafter called the "1929 Ford") (1064, 1065, 1115, 1118).

May, 1935, Hiss vacated the 28th Street Apartment; and moved into the P Street house (1085).

1935 Plymouth Sedan, Model PJ. On September 7, 1935 (nearly a year before Hiss disposed of the 1929 Ford on July 23, 1936, and while Hiss was still living in the P Street house), he bought from the Smoot Motor Company a new, two seated, two door Plymouth Sedan, Model PJ (959, 1095, 1119-1120). [See pp. 19-20, 22, infra, for the vital significance of the September, 1935 date of that Plymouth purchase.]

The intimacy between Chambers and Hiss (and their families).

- (a) Chambers first stayed a couple of nights with Hiss in the P Street house ²⁰ (949, 956-8, 983, 1087, 1151);
- (b) At Hiss' invitation,²¹ Chambers and his family then moved into the vacated (but furnished) 28th Street Apartment, which they occupied for three or four weeks in May-June, 1935 (980, 982, 983, 986, 1178, 1179, 1181, 1182);
- (c) Chambers' occupancy of the 28th Street Apartment for those several weeks in May-June, 1935, was without any lease, sub-lease, or other financial arrangement whatever (665, 986, 992, 1178, 1179, 1182, 1185, 1189, 1190). This was because Chambers and Hiss were both Communists (665, 986, 1182, 1183, 1185, 1189), and that was part of the Communist pattern (665, 1182, 1189);
- (d) Chambers and his family again stayed for a few days with Hiss in the "P" Street house (1182), which Hiss confirms (984).

- (e) In 1935-1936-1937, Chambers constantly saw Hiss both (i) At the P Street house; where, from time to time, Chambers stayed overnight for a number of days and as long as a week at a time (665, 1184, 1185); used Hiss' home as a kind of headquarters (1184); and saw Hiss at least fortnightly, except when Hiss was absent on vacation (1185, 1205); and also (ii) At No. 1241—30th Street; ²² where Chambers saw him at least once a week, often stayed overnight, and got his meals there (957, 1184, 1185, 1205), except when Hiss went on vacation (665, 1185).²³
- (f) Chambers' knowledge (i) of the "nicknames" by which Mr. and Mrs. Hiss always referred to each other, and to their stepson (664), which Hiss confirmed (960); (ii) that Hiss had first met Mrs. Hiss when she was a Mrs. Thayer Hobson, at the Rand School—a Socialist institution (668, 1262); (iii) of the locations, interiors, etc., of Hiss' several homes (665-6, 671-2); (iv) that they had a brown Cocker Spaniel as a family pet (665), confirmed by Hiss (961); (v) of Hiss' hobby as an ornithologist (666, 1201-2), confirmed by Hiss (961-2), and his sight of a prothonotary warbler (666), confirmed by Hiss (961-2, 1168); (vi) that as a small boy Hiss took a little wagon a long way off to Druid Hill Park (Baltimore), filled bottles with spring water, took them back, and sold the water (666, 668), verified by Hiss (963); and (vii) of their discussion about Chambers helping to lay rails on W, B & A lines (995, 1128, 1130, 1195).
- (g) About 1936, Chambers and Hiss discussed how much each would like to have a small place in the country. Hiss

²⁰ This is according to Hiss' testimony.

When Hiss moved from the 28th Street Apartment into the "P" Street House, the unexpired lease on the 28th Street Apartment still had four or five weeks yet to run.

²² Into which (after leaving the P Street house), Hiss moved about September, 1936 (957-8).

²³ Hiss admitted that Chambers stayed a couple of times at the 30th Street house (957-8).

unearthed a sale advertisement of a small, dilapidated farm house near Westminster, Maryland. Hiss made a "down payment" and motored Chambers (in the 1929 Ford) to see the farm; Mr. and Mrs. Hiss did not like the place, and called off the deal (1256, et seq.). A good deal later, Chambers bought the place 24 in his own name, but did not wish Hiss to know about it, as Hiss would have thereby learned Chambers' real name (1256, et seq.).

Chambers' initial (and quite casual) account, on August 7, 1948, of how Hiss, on July 23, 1936, had secretly disposed of his 1929 Ford Roadster. In 1936 (more than a year after Hiss testified he had "sold" or "thrown in" the Ford car, in June, 1935, to Crosley), Hiss disposed of the old 1929 Ford by taking it to a service station, or car lot, and simply leaving it there with someone whom the Communist Party had there to take care of such matters (666-7, 1183-4)—all of which was subsequently, and unexpectedly, confirmed by a certificate of title for the 1929 Ford, dated July 23, 1936, signed and verified by Alger Hiss, by which he sold the 1929 Ford Roadster to the Cherner Motor Company; and, simultaneously, the Cherner Motor Company sold or assigned it to a William Rosen, of a fictitious address at 5405—13th Street, N. W.

That transaction was a wholly fictitious assignment and sale, with no record kept of the transaction, except the official document signed and verified by Hiss.

It is unnecessary to review the testimony of the numerous third party witnesses cited in the margin.²⁵ The incident was an unanticipated verification of Chambers' prior testimony that in 1936, Hiss got rid of his 1929 Ford, by leaving it at a service station, to which the only real party was Hiss; and the 1929 Ford disappeared without leaving any other record behind it ²⁶ (666-7, 1183-4).

Chambers' "break" from Communism. In late 1937, and during the early months of 1938, Chambers finally decided to break with Communism (564, et seq., 1178, 1285, 1289). To aid the transfer of his identity from "Carl" into his real identity as Chambers, he at once secured (through Communist influence) a \$6,000 a year Government job in the Federal Research Project, which lasted for a few months (1285-1289). He told Hiss of his new "cover job", but did not tell him the purpose for which he wanted it; and Hiss remarked (at least in paraphrase): "Well, I expect you will turn up in the State Department one of these days" (1288).

Chambers last saw Hiss in 1938 (671, 1079, 1178, 1190); but before finally going into hiding Chambers called on Mr. and Mrs. Hiss (then living on Dent Place), and tried to persuade Hiss to break away from the Communist Party; but Hiss absolutely refused to do so (572, 1190).

Chambers then fled into hiding (1187-8) and completely disappeared (1287,1288) for the time being (1186-1189,1191, 1196-1200, 1256); but in 1939 was employed by "Time" and was receiving a \$25,000 a year salary (1197-1198).

²⁴ That is the same place which (since this Review was written) has become well known through Chambers' revelation of the "pumpkin" filled with microfilms.

²⁵ See testimony of Joseph Cherner, Samuel Mensh, Henry J. Gertler and W. Marvin Smith (1052-1074); William Rosen (1207-1221, 1329-1341); Leon Cherner (1223-1227); Henry Cherner (1227-1229, 1319-1328); Rhoda Brewer (1229-1232).

Rosen has since been held for contempt of Court for refusing to answer questions before the grand jury regarding his knowledge of Hiss and the Ford car (see opinion of Circuit Court of Appeals, 2d Circuit in *U. S.* v. *Rosen* decided April 25, 1949, Fed. (2d) p.

²⁶ The following brief references might be profitably consulted: 1110-1123, 1124-1126, 1157-1160, 1349.

Chambers' 1939 statements to the Government of (1) his own Communistic career and (2) the infiltration of Communists (including Hiss) into important Government positions. In the summer of 1939, Isaac Don Levine learned something of Chambers' experience with, and flight from, Communism (1005, 1006). A few days after Stalin and Hitler signed their "Non-Aggression Pact" of August 23, 1939, Levine (failing to see President Roosevelt), was referred by the President's Private Secretary, Marvin McIntyre, to Assistant Secretary of State Berle (1007).

On or about August 29, 1939, Chambers and Levine dined with Mr. Berle at the latter's Washington residence. Chambers revealed to Berle his whole story of the Communist "underground" in Washington (1007-8, 1191-2, 1292-4), and particularly mentioned the names of Alger Hiss, Donald Hiss, Nathan Witt and Lee Pressman (1292-1294).

Mr. Berle was both worried and disturbed, because he "believed that Chambers was telling the truth as he saw it" (1294). Berle at once took the following precautionary steps: (i) Established very close relations between the State Department and the F. B. I.; (ii) Organized a special section in the State Department to follow any Communist activities; (iii) Arranged to have a weekly liaison meeting with the F. B. I. for the exchange of information; (iv) Worked with the Department of Justice in passing needed legislation for the Government's protection; and (v) Twice checked with Dean Acheson, Assistant Secretary of State, who had Alger Hiss as his executive assistant; and Acheson vouched for both the Hisses absolutely (1294, et seq.).

Sometime later, Levine conveyed the Chambers revelations to William C. Bullitt, then Ambassador to France, and to Lloyd Henderson, in charge of the Russian Section of the State Department (1008). Since then, the State Department has removed 134 members of the State Department, for disloyalty reasons (1176).

In 1943, and again in 1945, Chambers reported the facts about Hiss to the F. B. I. (671).

Chambers never got in touch with the "Committee on Un-American Activities", which has been carrying on the "Hearings" (1189); but the Committee sought out Chambers in New York, and then, without any advance notice, subpoenaed him to testify (1189, 1191).

Let us now consider the testimony which Mr. Hiss gave in August, 1948, before the "Un-American Activities" Committee.

II. Hiss' Testimony.

Hiss denied he was, or ever had been, a Communist, or a member of any "underground" group (643, 942); denied ever knowing Whittaker Chambers, 27 or anyone who went solely by the name of "Carl" (643, 646, 647, 938, 991); but, after long questioning about many personal incidents in his own life, and after being shown both old and recent photographs of Chambers, Hiss said there seemed to be some familiarity in the face (940, 946, 953, 985, 1079, 1128, 1131, 1145). Upon a personal confrontation of Chambers and Hiss before the Committee, Hiss then identified Chambers as a man whom he had known in 1934-1935 under the name of George Crosley (977-8, 979, 986, 987, 988, 991, 998, 1078, 1128, 1130).

²⁷ First heard the name Whittaker Chambers from the F. B. I. in May, 1947 (936-7, 991).

While Hiss admitted close friendship with Collins (970), and that he personally knew Chambers, Pressman, Witt, Abt, Kramer, Ware, Collins and Coe (pp. 2-3, supra, Notes², ³, ⁴, ⁵, ⁷, ⁹, ¹⁰; 987-8, 998, 1130, 643, 653, 970), Hiss denied meeting with them in Collins' Apartment in St. Matthews Court (997, 998, 1171-2); and denied paying Communist dues (941 991, 997).

HISS' STORY OF HIS ALLEGED SLIGHT PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH AN APPARENTLY FICTITIOUS GEORGE CROSLEY, WHOM HE LATER POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS WHITTAKER CHAMBERS.

1. Hiss' first acquaintance with George Crosley.

In the fall of 1934, while Hiss was a legal assistant to the Senate Munitions Committee [Nye Committee], he claimed to have met one George Crosley, who represented himself as a married man with one baby, and as a free lance writer for magazines, preparing articles about the munitions investigation for sale to, or publication in, some magazine (955-6, 981, 1082, 1084). Except for himself and Mrs. Hiss, he has been unable to find anyone—not even his brother, Donald Hiss, or Senator Nye—who ever heard of Crosley (1090-2, 1117), although he said Crosley was for many months a free lance writer around the Capital. There is no Congressional Library record of Crosley ever writing anything (1090-3).

Hiss' continuing acquaintance with George Crosley. In late May, 1935, Hiss vacated his furnished 28th Street Apartment, and moved into the fully furnished P Street house (pp. 12, 13, supra; 982, 1085, 1087). This left the 28th Street Apartment on Hiss' hands for the few weeks' unexpired term until June 26 [or July 1], 1935 (1086-8).

Hiss testified that shortly thereafter, to-wit: In June, 1935 (980), Crosley said he was planning to spend the summer in Washington on the Munitions Committee researches; and Hiss sub-let the 28th Street Apartment to Crosley at its actual cost to Hiss for "just the summer months" until September or October (949, 956-7, 980, 981, 1085-8, 1089, 1108, 1150, 1151; Cf. 986); that Crosley and his family spent "a day or two in my (Hiss') house (P Street) when he moved in" to the 28th Street Apartment (949, 1151), while Crosley was waiting for his furniture to come by van 28 (956-8, 980, 983, 1087, 1151); and that he (Hiss) left some of his own furniture in the 28th Street Apartment for Crosley's use (956, 980, 1087); and that Crosley "stayed there (in the 28th Street Apartment) all summer" "until the lease expired in September, 1935" 29 (964, 981).

Hiss further testified that when, in June, 1935, he sub-let his 28th Street Apartment to Crosley for the summer until September, 1935 (949, 956, 964, 980, 981, 1085-1089, 1108), Crosley had no automobile, but wanted one (957, 982, 1098); that he [Hiss] "sold", "gave" or "threw in" his 1929 Ford, as a part of the sub-letting, by which Crosley would pay the rent for the four weeks unexpired term of the lease (957, 958, 1097-9); and that his reason (in June, 1935) for getting rid of the 1929 Ford was that he already had "another car" (957, 1093-1095, 1119), namely, a two-door "Plymouth" Sedan (959).

²⁸ Chambers says he brought no furniture to the 28th Street Apartment (986, 1182, 1192-3).

²⁹ The inconsistency of Hiss' testimony is obvious, as the lease expired June 26, 1935 (1086-7); and, hence, it was impossible for him to have rented it to Crosley for "the summer months" or for Crosley to have "stayed there all summer" (981). This is so because the gas and electricity were both turned off in the apartment June 26—June 29, 1935 (1090), and "Mr. Hiss vacated on June 28, 1935" (1087, 1088), and "This apartment was vacant for the month of July. On August 1, 1935, it was rented to W. E. Isemann" (1087, 1088).

It quicky developed that Hiss did not have "another car". He did not get the "Plymouth" until September 7, 1935 when he bought one from the Smoot Motor Co. (1095, 1120-1121).

Hiss has never explained that discrepancy.³⁰ The last time Hiss saw Crosley was in 1935, and, even at that, only two or three times after June 26, 1935 ^{30a} (984, 1121, 1170-1).

Mr. Hiss' story of his voluntary termination of his acquaintance with George Crosley. Hiss testified that Crosley never paid the rent for the 28th Street Apartment, but gave Hiss a rug as "part payment" which Hiss described as "the damned thing" ³¹ (964, 969, 984, 1153-1154) and borrowed \$35 or \$40 from Hiss but never repaid it (Id. 981); that by September, 1935 he realized that Crosley had "welshed" on him, was a "deadbeat", "four flusher" and had made a "sucker" out of Hiss, who thereupon, in September, 1935, ended his acquaintance with Crosley, and practically ordered him out of the house (957, 969, 970).

30a Hiss later advanced the possibility that he might have seen Crosley in 1936 (1170-2).

This is one trifling instance of the very large number of times, when, after making a positive statement, Hiss would throw out an anchor to windward to take care of the possibility that his statement might be contradicted—with the result that, on almost every important issue, he always left a loophole through which to escape from any future inconvenient contradiction or otherwise established fact.

Hiss insisted that from the time he first met Crosley in the fall of 1934, he had only seen him from four to seven times before Crosley moved into the 28th Street Apartment in June, 1935 (1153; contra 982); that after June, 1935 he only saw Crosley two or three times (1121); last saw him in 1935 32 (1170, 1171); and that he had never thought of Crosley since (948, 964).

The foregoing review substantially covers Hiss' testimony upon to August 24, 1948.

Until August 24, 1948, the Committee's fourteen hearings—July 31-August 20, 1948—and the testimony of its twenty-seven witnesses [533 printed pages] dealt almost entirely with two specific questions, to wit, (1) Did Hiss know Chambers?; and (2) Was Hiss a Communist?

The testimony developed some incidental matters of no apparent importance. Later those matters became of major importance in testing the credibility of Chambers and of Hiss, to wit:

- (1) When Hiss disposed of his 1929 Ford car to Crosley, did he do so because he had "another car" and no longer had any use for the old Ford (Cf. pp. 19, 20, 22, supra)?
- (2) Did Hiss really dispose of the old Ford to Crosley in June, 1935,? and never see it again as he claimed (p. 19, supra)?

³⁰ There is a complete collation of his various contradictory statements about "selling" or "throwing in" the 1929 Ford to Crosley (1100-1102, 1104, 1106, 1119-1121, 1124-1126, 1158-1160).

³¹ Hiss' statements with respect to the *period* of the oral lease, Crosley's rental *occupancy* of the 28th Street Apartment, *loans* and their *non-payment*, *non-payment* of rent, the "rug" payment on account, and possible payment of "\$15 or \$20" on account, are so incomprehensibly inconsistent and contradictory that neither the Congressional Committee nor a reader of the testimony can know which of the statements Hiss desires to stand on (Cf. 949, 956, 964, 969, 980, 981, 984, 1087-8, 1150-1, 1153-4).

³² Hiss' statements on that subject are so contradictory that it is impossible to tell which version he stands by (Cf. 1121, 1170, 1171, 1172, bottom and top of page 1173).

August 24, 1948—A Fateful 33 Date for Hiss

Suddenly, without warning, and beginning on August 24 and continuing upon August 25, 26, 27 [omitting Saturday and Sunday], 30, September 8-9, the Committee introduced seventeen new witnesses, who answered the above two questions directly contrary to Mr. Hiss' sworn testimony.

- 1. Hiss did not have "another car" in June, 1935, as he did not acquire "another car" until September 7, 1935. On September 7, 1935 Hiss purchased, from the Smoot Motor Co., a new, 1935, Plymouth Sedan, Model PJ (959, 983, 1095, 1100, 1101, 1104, 1106, 1119-1121). That definitely proved that Hiss' explanation that, in June, 1935, he disposed of his Ford car to Crosley, because he then also had a new Plymouth Sedan was not true.
- 2. Hiss did not dispose of his 1929 Ford car to Crosley in June, 1935; but he kept it for himself, and did not dispose of it until July 23, 1936, when he disposed of it under very mysterious circumstances. On July 23, 1936, Hiss' 1929 Ford mysteriously disappeared—something which Hiss has never explained. Hiss repeatedly stated that, in early June, 1935, he sold, gave, or threw in his 1929 Ford to Crosley, and handed him the certificate of title therefor (957-9, 963, 983, 991, 1094, 1095, 1098-1108, 1152); that he did not know what Crosley had done with the old Ford (1095); and that he never saw Crosley more than two or three times after June 26, 1935, and last saw him in 1935 (984, 1121, 1170, 1171).

Of the Committee's seventeen new witnesses, seven 34 of them proved (by introduction of official Government records) that on July 23, 1936 [more than a year after Hiss claimed to have "sold", "given" or "thrown in" the Ford car to Crosley, and had never seen or heard of it again] Alger Hiss personally signed, wrote in his own handwriting, swore to, and delivered to the Cherner Motor Co., an Assignment of Title #245647 to his 1929 Ford car; 35 that on the same date, July 23, 1936, the Cherner Motor Co. mysteriously sold, and transferred, the car to William Rosen, at a fictitious address, "No. 5405 13th St." (1067-1068); but that no record was kept of the transaction, which was contrary to every sale or other transaction in the Cherner Motor Co.'s business (1110-1119, 1121-1123).

Wm. Rosen refused to tell whether he was a Communist (1209, 1213, 1216), or ever bought a Ford car (1130, 1209) or owned a 1929 Ford (1212, 1339) or on July 23, 1936, bought a car from Cherner Motor Co. (1212, 1213) or signed "Wm. Rosen" to the transfer of title (1213) or stayed at the fictitious address given as "5405—13th St." (1213).36

Hiss admitted his own signature, handwriting in, and oath to, the transfer of title, before his long-time fellow attorney in the Department of Justice; but he denied all knowledge of disposing of the car or of the purchaser "Wm. Rosen" (1071-1074, 1095, 1115-1125, 1127).

35 1929 Model "A" Ford Roadster, No. A-2188811; original date

of registration 9-19-1933 (p. 11, *supra*, note #19).

^{33 &}quot;Fraught with destiny, bearing with it or involving momentous consequences; decisive, important. Masked by the influence of fate; controlled as if by irresistible destiny." Century Dictionary.

³⁴ Joseph Cherner (1052-1060); Leon Cherner (1223-1227); Henry Cherner (1227-1229)—brothers; Samuel Mensh (1060-1063); Henry Gertler (1063-1070); Floyd Brewer (1229-1232); W. Marvin Smith (1071-1074).

³⁶ For other references to Rosen's testimony (see 1214-1217, 1330-1338, 1340; U. S. v. Rosen, C. C. A. (2nd) No. 209-October Term 1948, decided April 25, 1949).

During the taking of the testimony of the Committee's seventeen sudden and new witnesses, Hiss testified three times (1076-1078, 1115-1176, 1118), so that he had every opportunity [66 pages] to explain away the overwhelming evidence that his many previous statements were not true.

The whole incident [involving Hiss, the Ford car, the motor company, the purchaser and fictitious address] is an amazing corroboration of Chambers' initial, and very casual, account of how, in 1936, Hiss deliberately disposed of the Ford car (p. 14, note 25, supra).

This episode is the most convincing proof in the record of Chambers' truthfulness and accuracy, and of Hiss' utter unreliability.⁸⁷

The Committee got in touch with Chambers, who gave it all his data, including that which he had long before revealed to the Government (pp. 1189-1191).

Chambers was willing to submit to a lie detector test (671); answered freely a number of written questions which Hiss propounded to him (pp. 1199-1200); never qualified his answers nor asked for a copy of his own testimony, and was never accompanied by counsel (pp. 1195-1196); but Hiss refused to submit to a "lie-detector" test (965-967).

On August 24 [the fateful day] the Committee introduced Martha Pope [whom Hiss had vouched for as "practically a member of the family" at p. 960]. She testified that she worked for Hiss about 5 years (1045) both in the 28th Street Apartment and at P St. (1044); that Hiss left the 28th Street Apartment "furnished" (1044) and took

no furniture with them (1046); still had the Ford car after he moved to P St. (1048) which was the only car he had (id.). Hiss then broke apart from almost everything which he had previously testified to with great positiveness. It is hardly worth while to analyze the many subjects ³⁸ concerning which his testimony then began to be shifty, mixed, confused, and uncertain (1085, 1086, 1087, 1089, 1090, 1094, 1095-1098, 1100-1103, 1104, 1105-6, 1107, 1111, 1112, 1119, 1120-1123, 1135, 1136, 1151, 1155, 1170-1172).

Hiss' evasiveness, lack of frankness, and double-entendre.³⁹ This is easily shown:

(a) Hiss said (1134):

"In the late fall or early winter [1946] when I was preparing to accept election as president of the Carnegie Endowment, I checked with him [Byrnes] specifically, as to whether he thought the issue had been laid to rest... or whether he thought there was still a fight. It was his impression, as I recall it, as it was certainly mine... that the matter had been entirely laid to rest."

³⁹ See "ambiguity (3)" "ambiguous (2)" "ambiguousness", "double (adj) (5)", "double-entendre", "double-facedness", "double-dealing", "double-heartedness", "double-meaning", "duplicity (1)", Century Dictionary.

³⁷ There are several valuable summaries, by members of the Committee, of Hiss' varying, inconsistent, and contradictory statements (1100-1106, 1124-1126, 1157-1160, 1353).

³⁸ Whether Crosley and his wife were guests before or after the spring and summer of 1935; Crosley was waiting for a furniture van; ride with Crosley, Hiss and Mrs. Hiss to New York in Ford car for 7-10 hours; Crosley's stay overnight with Hiss after expiration of lease; never saw Crosley in 30th Street House; left furniture behind in 28th Street Apartment for Crosley's use; expiration of 28th Street Apartment lease; length of Crosley's stay in 28th Street Apartment; ownership of two cars when he let Crosley have old Ford; final disposition of old Ford; acquisition of new "Plymouth"; loans to Crosley; time relation of finding Crosley to be a "dead beat", "four flusher" and "welsher" to Crosley's leaving 28th Street Apartment, and loans to him; circumstances of selling old Ford to Cherner Motor Co. on July 23, 1936; when he last saw Crosley re possession of old Ford.

(b) Hiss also said (1134):

"At the time when I accepted election as President of the Carnegie Endowment [January, 1947 (645)] I particularly checked with Justice Byrnes as to whether I had my work in the Department in sufficient shape . . . for me to leave.

I particularly reminded him that at the time when these charges had just come up in March [1946 (648)] I had said to him 'If there is any embarrassment to the Department about any of this, Mr. Byrnes, I will [immediately resign]. I don't like to resign under fire or in a fight. He agreed with me.'

Those were not statements about ancient events, nor made on the spur of the moment (without any opportunity for thought or investigation); but, on the contrary, they related to two vital conversations with Secretary of State Byrnes less than two years before; and Hiss' statements were made after he had already testified five times (135 printed pages) before the Committee, within the preceding three weeks.

Hiss thus stated that on two separate occasions 40,

"I checked with him [Byrnes] specifically", and

"I particularly checked with Justice Byrnes";

"I particularly reminded him"; and "He agreed with me"

Hiss meant the Committee to believe that he had twice personally seen and talked with Byrnes; "particularly" (twice), "specifically" (once), "checked with Byrnes", and

Byrnes "agreed with me".

The Trustees present at the dinner [Beekman Hotel, 575 Park Ave.] on Sunday evening, December 12, 1948 will recall that, after dinner, Mr. Bullitt asked Mr. Hiss these two questions:

First: Did you testify before the Committee [as above stated]?

Mr. Hiss answered "Yes".

Second: When, and where, did you personally see Secretary of State Byrnes? and "particularly" and "specifically" "check" with him, about the propriety of accepting the Presidency of the Carnegie Endowment?

Mr. Hiss answered substantially as follows:

"I did not personally see, 'check with', or communicate with Secretary of State Byrnes. But I asked Mr. Acheson to do so; and I understood from him that Secretary Byrnes said it was all right for me to accept the Presidency of the Carnegie Endowment."

Further: Mr. Hiss testified several times that Mr. John Foster Dulles especially recommended him to the Carnegie Endowment for its Presidency (645-646, 659).

In response to a Committee question whether he had told Mr. Dulles, or any one else, about the Secretary Byrnes interview in 1946 regarding the F. B. I.—Congressional charge that Hiss was a Communist, Mr. Hiss replied (1133):

"Shortly after I had been elected but before I had assumed office I had a conversation with Mr. John Foster Dulles in which he said that he had heard reports that people had called me a Communist. We discussed those reports at that time.

I can only assume . . . that Mr. Dulles was satisfied that there was nothing to the reports, as I was my-

⁴⁰ As thus defined by himself: First, in late 1946 when he was "preparing to accept"; and, Second, in January, 1947 [but before January 20th when Byrnes resigned as Secretary of State].

self... Before I assumed office, the matter was discussed between me and Mr. Dulles, as I testified. It was some time in December. I assumed office February 1, 1947. Some time in December, 1946, the matter was discussed between me and Mr. Dulles.

Mr. Mundt: Did you bring it up with Mr. Dulles or did Mr. Dulles bring it up with you?

Mr. Hiss: Mr. Dulles called me and said he had had a report. I said 'I thought that had been laid to rest' and I discussed it with him then."

From that testimony every one would assume that Hiss and Dulles had a personal "conversation" and "discussed" the reports about Hiss being a Communist.

At the Trustees' dinner of December 12 (supra) Mr. Bullitt asked Mr. Hiss where his meeting with Dulles took place. Mr. Hiss replied that he did not see Mr. Dulles, who had only telephoned from New York and Hiss had denied the reports.

In short, Hiss withheld from Mr. Dulles, Mr. Ballantine, and the Trustees—until the whole scandal burst forth before the "Un-American Activities" Committee in August, 1948—all information about the ten-years investigation (1938-1948) that had been going on by the F. B. I., members of Congress, and Secretary of State Byrnes, concerning Hiss as a Communist.

His testimony before the Committee was a double entendre which did not tell the facts—until they were forced out at the Trustees' dinner on December 12, 1948.

But that is not all.

Mr. Hiss never told anything whatever about the following two long subsequent interviews he had with Mr. Dulles. One in February, 1948, when Mr. Dulles "searchingly questioned" Mr. Hiss about his "Communist contacts" (p. 8, supra). The second one August 18, 1948, when Mr. Dulles suggested that Mr. Hiss voluntarily resign as President; and the Trustees will recall the dinner on Sunday evening, December 12, 1948 and the circumstances of the resignation tendered the next morning.

Further examples seem superfluous.

Conclusion

This "Review" has far exceeded its intended length.

Mr. Chambers' testimony appears as a blunt, straightforward, positive, unqualified statement of facts, unsupported by legal assistance or anything else, except an unaided memory of facts within his personal knowledge—none of which have been shown to be inaccurate; but, on the other hand, unexpectedly corroborated by Mr. Hiss himself, and by many disinterested third party records and oral evidence.

Mr. Hiss' testimony appears as that of an able, highly educated man, of professional training, with an amazingly accurate memory of every detail of the testimony heard at each prior Committee Meeting, with great dialectical skill and mental alertness; but cautious in expression, always with an anchor thrown to windward to cover any inconsistency or proven contradiction; and yet his statement of facts within his own personal experience has been constantly contradicted and torn to shreds by indisputable third party public and private written records, and disinterested oral evidence. His longtime Communistic friends and associates have refused (under plea of self incrimina-

tion) to answer the very questions which, if answered, might easily have contradicted Chambers and largely exonerated Hiss.

WM. MARSHALL BULLITT

Nassau, Bahamas. December 4, 1948

Mr. Chambers' production of micro films and typewritten copies of confidential State Department documents which he claims Hiss gave him, and the Federal Grand Jury's indictment of Hiss for perjury before it, do not relate to any of the facts stated in this "Review"; and are not considered in it. (See footnote p. 14, note 24, supra.)

At the May meeting of the Trustees of The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mr. Hiss was not re-elected as its President, but is still one of its Trustees.

Louisville, Ky. May 26, 1949

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Statement of Relations between Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Mr. Alger Hiss

At the December 1945 meeting of the Trustees, it was generally felt that the Endowment should have a full-time, paid President, to succeed Dr. Micholas Murray Butler. It was understood that the Executive Committee would explore this further and it was suggested that the Trustees should suggest rossible mominees.

At their May 1946 meeting, the Trustees appointed a Committee of three to propose nominations for President, the Committee consisting of Mr. John E. Davis, Mr. Arthur A. Ballantine and Mr. Eliot Wadsworth. Mr. John Foster Dulles, as prospective Chairman of the Board, occasionally met with the New York members of the Committee.

The Committee mot on several occasions and had frequent exchanges of views, and a number of names were put forward by various Trustees. About ten persons were seriously considered. One of these was Mr. Alger Hiss, then Director of the State Lepartment Office on Special Political Affairs (United Nations matters). Of those on the considered list, three were approached, but indicated that they would not be available. It then seemed that Mr. Hiss was the next most available person. He was personally known to several of the Trustees. He had been with the Department of State upwards of ten years and, while there, had been given ever-increasing responsibility. The Cormittee

accordingly took steps to check his record with the State Department, with the law firms with which he had been associated in private practice and with others, including several Trustees of the Endowment who knew him. The reports were uniformly laudatory and indicated that Mr. Hiss was well qualified to head up the work of the Endowment.

Hembers of the Committee then met personally with Mr. liss and discussed with him the problems of the Endowment. he showed a quick grasp of these problems, and his intimacy with the United Nations and its tasks impressed the members of the Committee. He indicated that he would be willing to resign from the State Department to take the position although his work in the Department was such that his superiors had asked him not to resign at that particular time. Later on, about October 1946, Mr. Hiss advised that he had finally gotten clearance from the Department so that he could leave by January, 1947.

At the meeting of the Trustees held on December 9, 1946, the Committee proposed that Mr. His be elected President and reported on his qualifications and the several Trustees present who had known Mr. Hiss personally, also expressed their high opinion of him. Thereupon he was unanimously elected President on the understanding that he would take office early in 1947. At the same meeting Mr. John Foster Bulles was elected Chairman of the Board.

Following the announcement of Mr. Hiss' election by the Endowment, the Endowment received many laudatory and congratulatory statements. The Acting Secretary of State - now the

Secretary of State - on December 10, 1946 issued a statement which referred to Mr. Hiss' work with the State Department as representing "outstanding devotion and ability" ever since he went to the Department in 1936; which credited him with being "one of the really basic causes for the success" of the San Francisco Conference; and which said that with his departure the Department "would lose one of its very best men."

That judgment was typical of the judgments regarding Mr. Hiss which had been expressed to the Committee during the preceding months and which were expressed following the public announcement of his election as President of the Endowment.

Prior to Mr. Hiss' election, no suggestion had come to the Trustees that Mr. Hiss was, or had been, a communist or that there was any suspicion of his loyalty. However, among the communications received following Mr. Hiss' election, there were certain suggestions that Mr. Hiss might once have had communist affiliations. The intimations were similar to rumors then prevalent regarding several highly placed persons and it did not seem that they ju tified credence as against the overwhelming verdict, by those who had known Hiss, as to his loyalty to American traditions. However, since one of the persons who made that suggestion was in New York City, and known by reputation as an able and sealous opponent of communism, the Chairman of the Endowment talked with him on January 2, 1947. He told him that since Mr. Hiss had actually been elected President, there was nothing that the Trustees could now do on the basis of mere rumors, but that if

he would be easer to get it and lay it before the Trustees, with a view to possible action.

The Chairman then told Mr. Hiss that he had heard rumors that he was, or had been, a communist. Mr. Hiss denied in the most categorical terms that he was or ever had been a communist or "fellow traveler". He said that he had satisfied the F.B.I. on that point.

After nearly two months, the New York informant above referred to wrote that, while he believed that there was information in the files of the F.B.I.

In view of the fact that these files are not available for reference, I could not, and I do not believe that you, could accept the available evidence uncorroborated as definitive. I am therefore dropping the matter.

Later, on May 19, 1947 he wrote as follows:

Sometime age I called on you to tell you that I had learned of a man who claimed to have information about Mr. Alger Hiss. After investigating it further, I wrote you that what this man claimed to know, I could not believe and did not think you would believe without corroboration, and so I thought the matter should be considered as idle rumor.

During this period, Mr. Hiss was, as President, carrying on his responsibilities with ability and he was a strong supporter of national measures, such as economic aid to Western Burope, which were being violently opposed by the Soviet Union.

In February, 1948, there came to the attention of the Endowment another report that Mr. Hiss had had communist contacts. In the light of this report, the Chairman again asked Mr. Hiss to see him and again questioned him searchingly. Mr. Hiss denied that he had had any communist affiliations except that, when he was practicing law and when he was in the Department of Agriculture, he was thrown into casual association with some persons who had communist sympathies. He went on to say that he had just appeared before the Grand Jury in New York and had been asked questions about these and a few other people, most of whom he did not know. The Chairman then rechecked with an official in the Department of State who was peculiarly in a position to know the facts, and was told by him that he was completely satisfied as to Mr. Hiss! loyalty and reliability.

The Chairman communicated the substance of the foregoing to some of the Endowment Trustees in New York and it was their common feeling that there was no basis for any Endowment action.

On August 3, 1948, at a Hearing before the House Committee, Chambers named Mr. Alger Hiss as having been in 1937 or thereabouts a part of the underground communist apparatus in Washington and that charge initiated a series of events that are a matter of public knowledge.

While the Chambers-Hiss Hearings were pending before the House Committee, the Department of State announced that Secretary of State Marshall had appointed Mr. Alger Hiss to be one of the two Vice Chairmen of the Mational Citizens' Committee for United Nations Day.

him, and told him that while he was confident that the Trustees would not themselves want to take action that might imply judgment against him or be prejudicial to him in relation to disputed facts, he thought that Mr. His, out of consideration for the Endowment, should voluntarily resign and relieve the Endowment of embarrassment. Mr. Hiss said that he was prepared to do this, but wished to defer such action until after the hearings before the House Committee were concluded, but that he would have in mind resigning during September.

On September 3, 1948 the Chairman, who was about to leave for Paris, arranged for Hr. Shotwell to assume adminstrative direction of the affairs of the Endowment as from September 1, 1948.

On December 15, 1948 at the regular semi-annual meeting of the Trustees, Mr. Hiss offered his resignation. The Trustees woted that no action be taken at that time on the resignation; that Mr. Hiss be granted leave of absence for the period of three months, and that Mr. Shotwell be appointed acting President with all the authority and duties pertaining to the office of President under the By-Laws.

On December 15, 1948, Mr. Hiss was indicted for perjury in connection with testimony given by him in contradiction to that of Mr. Chambers.

The three months! leave of absence granted to Mr. Hiss by the Trustees will expire on March 13, 1949.

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80th Congress Second Session dated

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

ALGER HISS.

:

Plaintiff

-against-

CIVIL

WHITTAKER CHAMBERS,

Defendant

No.

COMPLAINT

- 1. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York and defendant is a citizen of the State of Maryland. The matter in controversy exceeds, exclusive of interest and costs, the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000).
- 2. Plaintiff is, and was at all material times hereinafter referred to, an attorney at law duly admitted to practice at the bars of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of the State of New York and of the United States Supreme Court.
- 3. Plaintiff has been since about February 1, 1947, and now is, employed as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a foundation established under the will of the late Andrew Carnegie for the purpose of promoting international peace.
- 4. During a substantial part of the time to which the publications hereinafter alleged have reference, plaintiff was employed by the following branches of the United States Government and held the following positions during the following approximate periods respectively:

Branch	Position	Approximate Period
Department of Agriculture	Assistant to General Counsel and later Assistant General Counsel, Agricultural Adjustment Administration	May 1933 to April 1935
United States Senate	Legal Assistant, Senate Committee for the In- vestigation of the Munitions Industry	April 1935 to August 1935
Department of Justice	Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Solicitor General	August 1935 to September 1936
Department of State	Assistant to Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre Assistant to Mr. Stanley K. Hornbeck, Advisor on Political Relations Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Special Political	September 1936 to September 1939 September 1939 to February 1944 February 1944 to November 1944
	Affairs Deputy Director of the Office of Special Political Affairs Director of the Office of Special Political Affairs	November 1944 to April 1945 April 1945 to January 1947

By virtue of his positions as an officer and employee of the United States Government, plaintiff, as defendant well knew and as is generally known, was under a duty to and took an oath to support the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and to represent the United States loyally and faithfully at all times.

5. Defendant now is, and at the time of the publications hereinafter alleged was, a senior editor of "Time", a weekly magazine published in the United States and circulated in the United States and in numerous foreign countries.

- 6. On August 3, 7, 17, 25, 30 of 1948, the defendant testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities of the Congress of the United States or a sub-Committee thereof. The transcript of the testimony given on those occasions is too voluminous to be summarized here and the plaintiff begs leave to refer thereto at the trial of this case. The defendant then stated among other things that the plaintiff, while an employee of the Government of the United States in the capacities hereinbefore described was a member of the Communist Party and a leading member of a picked group of disloyal persons organized by the Communist Party for the purpose of infiltrating the Government of the United States, to the end that the policies of that Government might be influenced so as to serve the purposes of the Soviet Union, a foreign power, with espionage as an ultimate purpose. These charges were denied by the plaintiff under oath in testimony before said Committee on Un-American Activities and both the charges and the denial thereof were given wide publicity throughout the United States prior to the publicstions hereinafter alleged.
- 7. On or about the 27th day of August, 1948, defendant participated in a radio program known as "Meet the Press" at the studio of radio station "WOL" in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.
- 8. In the course of said radio program, defendant was interrogated by a "panel" of persons consisting of one
 Tom Reynolds, an employee of the "Chicago Sun", a daily newspaper published in the City of Chicago, Illinois; one Nat Finney, an

employee of "Cowles Publications", publishers of newspapers and periodicals circulated throughout the United States; one Edward Folliard, an employee of the "Washington Post", a daily newspaper published in the City of Washington, District of Columbia; and one Lawrence Spivak, editor of the "American Mercury Magazine", a monthly periodical published and circulated in the United States. One James B. Reston, an employee of the "New York Times", a daily newspaper published in the City of New York, New York, presided over said program in the capacity of "moderator".

9. During said program defendant was asked the following questions by such of the persons referred to in paragraph 8 hereof as are indicated opposite said questions respectively, and did then and there wilfully, falsely and maliciously, of and concerning plaintiff, give the following answers to such questions respectively:

Question (by Edward Folliard): "Are you willing to say now that Alger Hiss is or ever was a Communist?"

Answer: "Alger Hiss was a Communist and may be now."

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "In your judgment, can a man be a loyal American citizen and a member of the Communist Party?"

Answer: "It is quite impossible."

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "Why do you say that?"

Answer: "The Communist Party exists for the purpose of overthrowing whatever government exists under it."

* * * * *

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "Mr. Chambers, did you ever have anything to do with the Nye Committee, or did you work on any members of the Nye Committee when you were a member of the Communist Party? You remember the Nye Committee was operating in 1934 and Mr. Hiss, himself, was one of its counsel."

Answer: "Except for Mr. Hiss, Mr. Spivak, I don't believe I knew any members of the Nye Committee."

* * * * *

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "Was the Communist Party
interested at that time in the Nye Committee and in the
actions of the Nye Committee?"

Answer: "The Communist Party was interested in the Nye Committee because it was exposing or pretended to expose the so-called munitions industry."

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "Was Mr. Hiss in there in the interest of the Communist Party? Did they have anything to do with his getting on to the Committee or was that accidental?"

Answer: "The Communist Party was very much interested in his getting on that Committee."

* * * *

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "Mr. Chambers, when you were a member of the Underground, was there anything of particular importance or significance to the Russians that you, yourself, did or accomplished, or were you just a member of an Underground that kind of played around Washington?"

Answer: "Well, I would hesitate to say that an Underground which was able to place people in the Treesury and State Department in such high positions was playing around; they certainly were not doing anything directly for the Russians.

Question (by Lawrence Spivak): "You didn't place them there necessarily for spying but to influence policy?"

Answer: "That is true; which is something very much more important than spying."

* * * * *

Question (by Tom Reynolds): "I was in Washington at the time that the Soviet Union was recognized by the United States.

Liberalism, so-called, was the fashion and the fad.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was the god of such young people as Mr. Alger Hiss. Mr. Alger Hiss was a leftist in the Holmes pattern. Did he have to go far to the left to be guilty of whatever you are accusing him of, which I am not quite sure of."

Answer: "I am accusing him of membership in the Communist

Party. I am not even accusing him of that. I am simply
saying that he was a member of the Communist Party."

10. Said questions and said answers of defendant were broadcast by radio simultaneously with their utterance, as defendant then and there well knew and intended, by said radio station "WOL", located in said City of Washington, District of Columbia, and by about 345 other radio stations located in the State of Moryland and in all other states of the United States and said questions and said answers of defendant were heard, and

were intended by defendant to be heard, by an audience of twelve million persons, more or less, in the District of Columbia and in the State of Maryland and in every other state of the United States.

- ll. Said questions and said answers of defendant, simultaneously with their utterance, were permanently recorded by means of a phonographic recording machine on a record disc; they were likewise reproduced or paraphrased in newspapers and periodicals having countrywide distribution and such reproduction and paraphrasing were the natural and probable consequences of the utterance of said statements by defendant.
- published as aforesaid, defendant meant and was understood to mean that plaintiff was a Communist and a member of the Communist Party while an employee of the United States Government, that plaintiff secured positions of importance in the United States Government in the interest of the Communist Party and for the purpose of influencing the policies of said Government in favor of Communism, that plaintiff, as such an employee of the United States Government, was disloyel and unfaithful to the United States and betrayed his duty and obligation, as such employee, to support the principles of the Constitution of the United States and to represent the United States loyally and faithfully at all times, and was loyal to Communism in betrayel of the interests of the United States; and further meant and was understood to mean that plaintiff, upon entering his various employ-

- 7 -

ments in the United States Government, made false oaths of office in sweering to support the Constitution of the United States, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States, and that pleintiff committed perjury in violation of the criminal laws of the United States in testifying under oath before said House Committee on Un-American Activities that he is not and never has been a Communist or a member of the Communist Party, as defendant then and there well knew plaintiff had testified; and further meent and was understood to mean that plaintiff was, and may now be, an advocate, abettor, adviser or teacher of the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the Government of the United States by force and violence in violation of the criminal laws of the United States; and further meant and was understood to mean that plaintiff was, and may now be a person disqualified from holding an office of trust and confidence in the United States Government and unworthy of trust in his profession as an attorney at law.

- 13. The matter so uttered, broadcast and published is untrue, false and defamatory.
- 14. By reason of such utterance and publication plaintiff has been greatly injured and damaged in his professional reputation and office, has been brought into public odium and contempt, and has suffered great pain and mental anguish, to his damage in the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

- 8 -

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendent in the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) and costs.

September 27, 1948

Edward C. McLean

Debevoise, Plimpton & McLean

Of Counsel

20 Exchange Place New York City, New York Marbury Miller Evous

Attorneys for Plaintiff 1000 Maryland Trust Building Baltimore 2, Maryland