

Book by Alger Hiss Charges Fair Trial Denied From Start In Famed Spy Case

New York—(U.P.)—Alger Hiss' own story of his trial and conviction is published today in a book which charges he was denied a fair trial from the moment of his first appearance before a congressional committee through his final judgment by the Court of Appeals.

The book, "In The Court of Public Opinion," reasserts Hiss' innocence both of Communist spy charges and of the perjury, in denying them, for which he spent three years and eight months in federal prison.

It is a step by step recounting of the case which began with charges against him by confessed spy Whittaker Chambers in 1948 and ended with the denial of his last appeal for a new trial 19 months before he was released from prison.

"I am confident now, as I have always been, of eventual vindication," Hiss said this week. He said he understands that he may still seek a new trial under some circumstances and that his attorneys are pursuing "all leads possible to this end... as far as available money and manpower will permit."

But he was judged, he contends, in a court of unjustly in-

flamed public opinion and, as his book title indicates, it is that court that he addresses his argument.

If his version of the still debated "Hiss case" is the true one, this is the recital of an extraordinary miscarriage of justice.

Hiss was a promising young government career man from the early days of the New Deal. In 1947 he left the State Department, where he had worked for six years, rising to be director of United Nations affairs, to become president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In the summer of 1948, Chambers, then a senior editor of Time magazine, told the House Un-American Activities Committee that he had been a courier for a Communist spy ring in Washington in the 1930's. He named Hiss as a fellow Communist.

Chambers at first said that Hiss had not been a member of the spy ring. Three months later, after Hiss had instituted suit for libel for being called a Communist, Chambers produced from a pumpkin a group of typewritten and microfilmed State Department papers which he charged Hiss had given him for the Russians in 1938.

Says Truth Distorted

Hiss charges that from the beginning, months before the spy charge was made, the House committee deliberately and for political purposes distorted the truth to build a false impression of his guilt.

The committee was controlled by Republicans. It was an election year. Hiss said its mission was described in one instance as "to put the heat on Harry Truman," then both President and presidential candidate.

Members of the committee included Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who has been widely credited with pursuing the Hiss case to conviction, and Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.), whom Hiss quotes extensively in citation of alleged distortion by committee members.

By SEN. KARL E. MUNDT

Written for the United Press
I am glad to accept the United Press invitation to review the Hiss book. As acting chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities during most of the Hiss hearings, I have followed every facet of the Hiss case and believe there are facts in connection with it which the public should have in evaluating the contents of this Hiss apology.

While purporting to include "new evidence," the book actually contains nothing of substance which was not presented in the two Hiss trials and in the futile petition for a new trial. In the main, the book is simply the age old complaint voicing the views of the convict after the court has issued its verdict of "guilty." It is largely an uninteresting rehash of well known details of committee and court hearings involving Alger Hiss.

Like many books of this type, this volume is more noteworthy for what it does not say, and for what it includes. For example, it evades the basic issues of fact by failing fully or accurately by four mute but mighty "witnesses." These were the expensive rug Hiss received from Whittaker Chambers; the typewriter which was identified as the Hiss machine on which the documents received by Chambers were written; the Ford car which even in his book Hiss is unable to explain away in many monotonous pages devoted to it; and, finally, the telltale State Department notes in the handwriting of Hiss which Chambers produced for the trial.

Evidence Was Varied
The book improperly attributes to the House Committee on Un-American Activities a prede-

State Compulsory Meat Inspection Recommended

Salem—(U.P.)—The Joint Ways and Means Committee has passed on appropriations bills by recommending \$400,000 for a state compulsory meat inspection program for the next two years.

The Department of Agriculture has been conducting a pilot meat inspection program to determine the need for state meat inspection.

Earlier the committee passed out favorably a \$66,650,574 budget for the Welfare Commission and recommended a \$4,550,000 increase in salaries of state employees.

Also voted out favorably was a bill calling for a vote of the people on all owing the Board of Control to discontinue either the State Tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles or at Portland.

Women's Prison Suggested

Senate bill 439 would allow the board to operate the institution for some other purpose.

Sen. Jean Lewis, Portland Democrat, said she hoped the board would consider using one of the hospitals for a women's prison. She said such a move could save the state an "untold amount of money."

Postponed until today was committee action on the community college bill and an \$830,000 appropriation for the Oregon Centennial Commission.

House action saw an expenditure of \$150,000 to acquire property northeast of the state capital in Salem voted down 40-14. Secretary of State Mark Hatfield had planned to use the 50,000 square feet of space for a parking lot for state employees, but Rep. Clarence Barton, Coquille Democrat, said \$150,000 was too much money for a parking lot.

termination to expose and convict Hiss. As acting chairman of that committee at the time, I know that exactly the reverse was true. To a man, our committee at the outset was impressed by Hiss because of his background and appearance and we were predisposed at the beginning to believe Hiss and to be skeptical of Chambers.

As the evidence accumulated, however, and the Chambers testimony checked out with verifiable facts and documents while the Hiss testimony grew steadily more evasive and inaccurate, we came to the conclusion that Hiss was falsifying his evidence. In a final effort to enable him to reestablish his rapidly collapsing position, we offered him an opportunity accepted by Chambers to take the life detector test which he avoided. Even so, it was the federal Grand Jury and the Federal Court, not our committee, which indicted and convicted Hiss of perjury on two counts and sentenced him to five years in the federal penitentiary.

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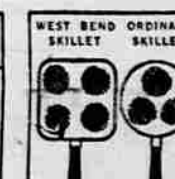
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