

FRANCIS B. SAYRE
3500 OVERLOOK LANE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

September 19, 1963

Dr. Meyer A. Zeligs
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco 8, California

My dear Dr. Zeligs:

I have your letter of September 12, saying that you are occupied with the task of preparing a psychobiographic study of the lives of Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss, and asking for such statements or further factual information as I can give with respect to Mr. Hiss.

I welcome the effort to seek the genuine truth concerning the unparalleled attack by Whittaker Chambers upon Alger Hiss, but regret that I have now nothing further to add to what I have already said on many occasions in public and in private about Alger Hiss.

When, as Assistant Secretary of State working intimately with Secretary Cordell Hull, I found it necessary to appoint some man of experience, integrity and large competence to help in our work, I chose Alger Hiss because of his high ability, his past record of service, and his devotion to American ideals. For more than two years he worked in my office and I came to know him intimately. During my close association with him I found him always devoted and loyal to American ideals. Never once did he show any trace of Communist activity or Communist thinking; the slant of his mind lay in the very opposite direction. I found him at every turn dependable, deeply sincere and devoted to American objectives.

When Whittaker Chambers, a veritable wolf in sheep's clothing, brought his damning and unproven charges and accusations against Alger Hiss, ~~then still working in my office~~, I could not believe them true. In the years that followed, no sound proof of these preposterous charges has ever been brought to me. Until, if ever, such proof can be made, I shall remain unconvinced of the disloyalty of Alger Hiss.

Sincerely yours,

FRANCIS B. SAYRE
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FRANCIS B. SAYRE
3500 OVERLOOK LANE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

October 10, 1963

Dr. Meyer A. Zeligs
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco 8, California

My dear Dr. Zeligs:

Thank you for your letter of October 3. I am tremendously interested to learn that, after four years of deep and comprehensive research, you are "in full agreement with the views" which I expressed in my recent letter to you.

As to your request to quote from my letter, I should be happy to have you do so with the exception of the last (fourth) paragraph. Since this in substance merely repeats what has already been said in the first three paragraphs, and since my own opinion of the character of Whittaker Chambers is not, I feel, an essential issue in the case, I should prefer that this fourth paragraph of my letter should not be quoted.

I shall be immensely interested to see your book when it is finished and to learn your own carefully studied conclusions about this lamentable case.

Sincerely yours,

Francis B. Sayre

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