

## Case 'Too Hot' For Comment

# Chambers Said to Have Added Evidence Against Alger Hiss

By Bert Andrews  
*Post Reporter*

The Hiss-Chambers controversy took the most serious turn of its involved and mysterious life yesterday as the result of a startling development which is expected to lead to intensification of two separate investigations.

A reporter was able to ascertain facts that seemed to justify the following inferences:

1. That Whittaker Chambers, a senior editor of *Time* magazine, has added something new and important to his charges that Alger Hiss, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was a member of a Communist "apparatus" while a Federal employe in the mid-1930s.

2. That the Department of Justice knows all about the new material and regards it as "too hot" for comment.

It could not be learned whether the material mentions names or Government agencies or documents, but it clearly was of enough significance to be withheld from public scrutiny for the time being at least.

3. That, as a result of the material, there will be in all likelihood a resumption of a recently dormant New York Federal grand jury's investigation of communism and espionage.

4. That the Justice Department

**See HISS, Page 12, Column 4.**

## New Evidence Is Indicated

in all probability will step up its effort to ascertain whether it was Hiss or Chambers who committed perjury when they first clashed before the House Committee on Un-American Activities of the Eightieth Congress.

5. That the committee may order new public hearings before the Republican-controlled Eightieth Congress expires and makes way for the Democratic-controlled Eighty-first Congress.

6. That the libel suit of Hiss against Chambers, in which the preliminary sparring has already taken place under the jurisdiction of a United States District Court in Baltimore, ought to furnish some fancy explosions when and if it comes to trial.

7. That new names may be mentioned in one or another of the inquiries.

The one truly positive comment of the day came from Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the criminal division of the Department of Justice.

Campbell was asked about the conflict between two news items.

One appeared Wednesday morning in The Washington Post in Jerry Kluttz' column, "The Federal Diary." It said that the Hiss-Chambers fight was scheduled to make news again shortly. It added: "Since Alger Hiss sued Whittaker Chambers for libel, attorneys for both men have been taking detailed depositions from witnesses, including the two principals. Some very startling information on who's a liar is reported to have been uncovered."

The other was a United Press Washington dispatch of Wednesday afternoon. It said that Justice Department officials said the perjury part of the inquiry was "about to die for lack of evidence."

Campbell would not talk beyond saying:

"I just can't comment on these stories. I just can't answer any questions about the Hiss-Chambers case. No. 1—This is too hot. No. 2—I just can't say anything about it."

Campbell was asked a series of questions including:

Inasmuch as the department was interested in the perjury case, wasn't it logical to assume it would be interested in depositions taken in the libel suit? Had it obtained any depositions? If not, where were they?

To these and all other questions, Campbell said no comment—and said it emphatically.

A reporter, by telephone, sought information from Federal Judge

called in after the depositions were taken, and whether the depositions or parts of them were turned over to any other Government agency.

All three declined to answer the first question, Chambers "on the advice of counsel." The attorneys declined to say who has the depositions now but agreed that they are not in the possession of any Federal judge. Both attorneys replied "I can't discuss that," when the fourth and fifth questions were put to them. Chambers gave the same answer to the fifth question "on advice of counsel."

Meanwhile, a wireless message was sent by the reporter to Representative Richard M. Nixon (R., Calif.), a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, who is vacation bound to Panama aboard the steamship Panama. Nixon was asked, in view of yesterday's developments, if his committee will reopen its investigations. No answer had been received late last night.

Copyright, 1948, N. Y. Herald Tribune

W. Calvin Chesnut in Baltimore; Richard Cleveland of Baltimore, Chambers' attorney in the libel case; William L. Marbury of Baltimore, Hiss's attorney in the libel case; Hiss and Chambers.

Judge Chesnut would say only that no depositions had been filed with the court as yet, to his knowledge, and that he could make no comment on the case.

Hiss referred all questions to his attorney.

Then this reporter established that depositions have been taken from Chambers and Mrs. Chambers but not from Hiss. The questioning of Chambers and his wife was not done before a judge but presumably before a notary public.

Cleveland, Marbury and Chambers then were asked whether any new information or evidence was disclosed during the questioning; who has possession of the depositions now; whether they are in the possession of any Federal judge; whether any Federal judge was