

was such a dutiful Commie he had given money Thayer had sent him for Tim's schooling to the Communist Party and had sent Timmy to a cheaper school. What Al had done was put Tim in a more expensive school, and when Thayer had kicked up a fuss, Al made up the difference, to the tune of several hundred dollars a year. "I knew the son of a bitch was a liar when I heard that one," Thayer said of Chambers, confirming Al's version. Al later got mad at Thayer for being "stand-off-ish on Tim" after he heard about Tim's having said he'd been gay — Thayer wouldn't give Tim any dough when he went off to med school in Switzerland in the fifties — but then was pleased again when Thayer and Tim got to be friends after Tim had made a success of himself. Thayer left Tim a third of his estate when he died in the middle sixties.

Al married Prossy right in the middle of his year as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Holmes had a policy against this — his legal secretaries were supposed to postpone marriage plans until after their time with him — but Al didn't hear about that until the morning of his wedding, and anyway he hadn't thought about getting married when he'd taken the job in the spring. Holmes was gracious enough about it and offered Al two weeks off, but Alger and Prossy spent a weekend honeymoon on the Eastern Shore. Holmes wanted to give Al a check as a wedding present, but Al held out for a volume of the old man's speeches. Holmes inscribed the book "To Alger Hiss," and when Al told him he'd hoped for a longer inscription, the Justice added "et ux." — legal Latin for "and wife." Donie was best man at the wedding, and Minnie sent a telegram to Al that said, "DO NOT TAKE THIS FATAL STEP."

Al says he never had any sexual problems with Prossie until he got out of jail. "Sex was just quite joyous, and well worth waiting for. Of course, I thought I was extremely knowledgeable, I'd read Krafft-Ebing and Havelock Ellis and Marie