

tuition, or even order. Looking back on its conduct, with fuller knowledge of its handicaps and with much greater personal experience of such matters than I then had, I am astonished at the skill and pertinacity with which it made head against great obstacles.

If the Committee were to press the Case, the first point to establish was: who is lying? That could be got at most readily by finding out whether or not I had, in fact, ever personally known Alger Hiss. Nixon, acting on a suggestion of Ben Mandel's, proposed a simple procedure. The Committee would question me in executive session with a view to discovering what hard facts I knew about Hiss, his family, his life, the houses he had lived in, etc. Then it would separately question Hiss on the same points, and compare the two witnesses' answers.

Richard Nixon was appointed chairman of a sub-committee for that purpose. Its other members were Congressmen F. Edward Hébert of Louisiana and John McDowell of Pennsylvania. The sub-committee left for New York and summoned me for questioning at 10:30 on the morning of August 7, 1948, in Room 101 of the United States Courthouse (the Federal Building). Nine days later, it summoned Alger Hiss to a similar session in the Committee's hearing room in the Old House Office Building in Washington.

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I had to ask my way to the Federal Building where I was soon to spend some months of the most important waking hours of my life. I found the sub-committee waiting for me in one of those official rooms where no one lives but which bears the stale traces of many people passing through. With the sub-committee was a contingent of the Committee's staff. Most of them were standing or shuffling around nervously. Everyone was overtly polite under an air of fret. Ben Mandel hovered around me with disquieting solicitude.

The three members of the sub-committee sat down, facing me across a long table. Congressman Nixon sat directly opposite me; Hébert to his right, McDowell to his left. We were not more than four to six feet apart. The congressmen seldom took their eyes off my face. A drumfire of questions began which continued almost without pause until the end of the hearing. Nixon, as chairman of the sub-committee, opened fire.