Hiss Predicts Reversal of Verdict; Appeal Will Follow His Sentencing

Alger Hiss, former State Department official who was found guilty Saturday by a Federal Court jury on two counts of perjury, insisted yesterday that he was innocent and remained firm in his belief that his conviction would be reversed by the higher courts.

Faced with a possible maximum sentence of ten years in prison and $4,000 in fines, he told his friends that he was shocked at the outcome of the second trial. He declared that throughout the entire trial he was confident that the jury of eight women and four men would disbelieve the story of Whittaker Chambers, confessed former Communist courier.

As Hiss studied the court record at the New York home of a friend, where he went Saturday night with Mrs. Hiss and remained yesterday, he commented several times: "It just seems impossible that anyone would believe Chambers, the admitted perjurer."

It was Mr. Chambers who first accused Hiss of betraying his trust as a Government official by passing out secret documents of the State Department.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, pausing at San Francisco Airport on her way to Portland, Ore., for a lecture engagement, said yesterday she felt Hiss might be guilty of perjury but not of espionage.

"It's a very difficult case to know what to think," she said in response to a query about the conviction. "I never once heard him say anything that would even approach the idea that he was a Communist. I feel he may have perjured himself, but I don't feel he ever sold any secret papers. It's a very sad case."

Claude B. Cross, chief counsel for Hiss, said yesterday at his home in Brookline Mass., that an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals would be entered immediately after Judge Henry Goddard imposes sentence here Wednesday morning. He declined to discuss its basis.

Asked if he would fight the case to the Supreme Court, he replied: "We will cross that bridge when we come to it." In answer to the question whether he thought Hiss would go to jail, he said: "I don't know. I have no way of knowing. That is for the judge to decide."

Hiss has made it clear that the fight for his vindication will continue, even if it has to go to the United States Supreme Court. However, he shares the hopes of his counsel that the Circuit Court of Appeals will find sufficient grounds on which to reverse the verdict of guilty.

Friends said yesterday that Hiss' wife, Priscilla, was bearing up under the strain and that she, too, was confident of a reversal of the verdict.

His Status as a Lawyer

The convicted man is not automatically disbarred from law practice because of the jury verdict, it was explained yesterday. If the conviction is sustained in the final appeal, however, he would be unable to practice in the Federal and state courts. He is a member of the state bars of New York and Massachusetts as well as the Federal bar.

Hiss is now at liberty under $5,000 bail, a continuation of the bond he posted when first arraigned.

When he comes up for sentence it will be one year, five months and twenty-one days after Mr. Chambers first accused him. The jury found the former Government career man guilty on two counts of perjury, that he lied when he said he never gave Mr. Chambers secret Government papers for a Communist spy ring and that he lied when he denied seeing Mr. Chambers after Jan. 1, 1937. Hiss could not be charged with espionage because of the statute of limitations.

The first Hiss trial ended July 8 when a jury of ten men and two women were deadlocked, eight for conviction and four for acquital. Hiss applied to have the second perjury trial moved to Rutland, Vt., contending that public prejudice made it impossible to have a fair and impartial trial in New York. The motion was denied.

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Frankfurter, Reed Assailed

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BOSTON, Jan. 22—A member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives said today he would ask the Legislature to adopt a resolution calling for the resignation of Supreme Court Justices Felix Frankfurter and Stanley F. Reed.

Representative Vincent Manning, Boston Democrat, declared that by appearing as character witnesses for Alger Hiss when the latter was first tried for perjury "Justices Frankfurter and Reed have compromised themselves so they can no longer command the confidence of the American people." He added that "they should resign immediately."

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