Mrs. Roosevelt Not Convinced Of Hiss' Guilt

AMES, Iowa, Jan. 28 (UP). Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt indicated last night that she is not convinced of Alger Hiss' guilt and said his perjury trial "troubled me a great deal."

She intimated at a news conference that she had misgivings about the case, particularly the weight to be given to testimony by the former State department official's accuser, Whittaker Chambers.

"I just don't like it at all," she said, shaking her head vigorously.

The Hiss case was discussed twice during the news conference preceding a speech she made in connection with the women's day program at the Iowa State college campus.

"Not Reluctant"

The widow of the President said she was "not reluctant" whatever to talk about the Hiss affair.

"You see, of course, that I was not a member of the jury and I cannot judge the legal phases of the case," she said.

"But it seems rather horrible to condemn someone on the testimony of another person who by his own admission is a perjurer and a former Communist," she said, referring to Chambers' accusations against Hiss.

"It troubles me a very great deal, you see.

"If a person had been disloyal and feared exposure, the only way for him to go scot free would be to confess the crime and then accuse someone else of the same things."

She said it would "seem strange" to her for Hiss to continue to protest his innocence, unless he were speaking the truth.

Loyalty Not Doubted

Mrs. Roosevelt said she did not know Hiss well enough to testify regarding his character but that she had met him at several United Nations functions and had heard him speak. She could not recollect ever hearing him say anything that would cause her to doubt his loyalty.

Several times during the questioning, Mrs. Roosevelt repeated that she was "very troubled" by the case.

Tolson ✓
Ladd ✓
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

74-1333-A

INDEXED - 5

68 FEB 3 1950

File
ASB

Page 2

Times-Herald
Wash. Post
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N.Y. Mirror

Date: JAN 29 195

~~FEB 3 1950~~

50 FEB 3 1950