To Clear 'Rumors'

Lie Detector Test Offered By Chambers

Whittaker Chambers last night offered to take an FBI lie detector test to refute "scuttlebutt rumors" that there was something "peculiar" in his relations with Alger Hiss.

Chambers made the offer during a radio interview by Bert Andrews, chief of the Washington Bureau of the New York Herald Tribune.

Chambers said he also wanted to "spike the rumor that Alger Hiss is shielding someone."

Hiss was convicted by a Federal Court jury in New York of lying under oath when he said he never gave secret State Department papers to Chambers for transmission to Russia.

Andrews told Chambers there were a number of stories "that have attained national circulation in scuttlebutt fashion." He listed rumors that the former Communist spy was once placed in a mental institution; that he is a heavy drinker and that there was something in his relations with Hiss that has not come to light."

"I have never been in a sanitarium of any sort, period," Chambers said. "I almost never touch hard liquor. I may have five or six glasses of wine a year.

"The whole truth about my friendship with Alger Hiss was placed before the jury."

Mrs. Roosevelt Holds Doubts of Hiss' Guilt

Ames, Iowa, Jan. 28 (U.P.).—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt last night indicated she is not convinced that Alger Hiss was guilty and said she felt "awfully, awfully troubled about the whole thing."

At a news conference, Mrs. Roosevelt intimated she did not consider the evidence conclusive.

She said it "seemed strange" to her that Hiss would continue to protest his innocence, unless he were speaking the truth, after being convicted on the word of Chambers, who "by his own confession really is guilty of perjury and other crimes."

Regarding Secretary of State Dean Acheson's statement of continued friendship toward Hiss, Mrs. Roosevelt said she thought people were being "overhysterical."

She said she did not know Hiss personally but that she had met him "on one or two occasions" at United Nations functions.

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