Chambers Invites Lie Test on Motives In Accusing Hiss

Whittaker Chambers declared last night he is "eager" to take a lie detector test to prove he had no personal reasons for making charges against Alger Hiss.

The confessed erstwhile Communist courier came here from his Wesminster (Md.) farm to strike back at stories he asserted were "assiduously spread" against him by sympathizers of the former State Department official.

His testimony at two trials in Federal Court in New York City and before the House Committee on Un-American Activities led largely to conviction of Hiss on perjury counts. Hiss, convicted January 21, has appealed a five-year prison sentence imposed last Wednesday.

The squat, gray-haired 48-year-old Mr. Chambers, who accused Hiss of having given him stolen State Department documents for transmission to Russia, participated in a radio broadcast with Bert Andrews, chief of the New York Herald-Tribune's Washington bureau. After the broadcast from station WMAL, he answered further questions by reporters.

The lie-detector issue came up originally at House committee hearings in August, 1948. Mr. Chambers told the committee he would be willing to submit to such a test. Hiss declined on the advice of friends that the test was not reliable.

Mr. Chambers declared last night he is eager "to take this test under proper auspices." By "proper auspices" he meant that those giving the test "must be free of any suspicion of complicity with Communists or close ties with Alger Hiss and his sympathizers."

"I would merely insist that one question be: 'Was there ever anything unusual about your relationship with Alger Hiss or any member of his family?' I particularly want to spike the rumor that Alger Hiss is shielding someone. He is shielding nobody but himself."

In contrast to his flat, unemotional voice and poker-face appearance during the broadcast, Mr. Chambers in an accompanying interview seemed far more relaxed and friendly than he was at the court trials or House committee sessions. He also was more nattily dressed in a gray suit, white shirt and black tie.

His 16-year-old daughter, Ellen, was with him. He frequently smiled at her while he chatted with reporters.

Laughs at Report of "Deal."

He laughed when he described as "nonsense" a report that he had made some sort of "deal" with the Justice Department to escape possible prosecution for perjury as a result of earlier testimony. He answered questions quickly, but seldom stopped puffing on a pipe.

He has no "solid plans" for the future, he said. Asked about the implication of "solid," the former $30,000 a year senior editor of Time magazine quipped: "I was merely groping—for an adjective."

But there were no smiles or signs of gloating when he spoke of Alger Hiss or of the rumors he said were circulated against himself.

"I have never been in a mental hospital or sanatorium of any sort. Period," he said grimly. "I almost never touch hard liquor. The whole truth about my friendship with Alger Hiss was placed before the jury."

Mr. Andrews asked him about rumors he was still a Communist with orders from Moscow to seem a renegade and wreck Mr. Hiss.

"I know all those stories," he replied. "Usually they say I am working out some old grudge or hatred. I do not hate Mr. Hiss. We were close friends, but we were caught in a tragedy of history. Mr. Hiss represents the concealed enemy against which we are all fighting."

"I believe the American people still accept the verdicts of their duly selected juries rather than the personal opinion of any well-meaning individual, no matter how highly placed that individual may be," he said.

Mrs. Roosevelt said Friday at a news conference on the Iowa State College campus at Ames, Iowa, that Hiss was involved "by a man who by his own admission is a perjurer and former Communist."

"It seems rather horrible to condemn someone on the word of someone else who admits to guilt," she said. "One thing troubles me. If you had been disloyal and your conscience troubled you, the only way you could go scott free would be to accuse someone else of the things you were accused

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