THE Washington Times-Herald loudly pointed out that the Post had used many of the New York Herald Tribune's stories on the trial and said they "were unduly short, obscure of meaning and buried on inside pages."

As to the validity of this comment the fact stands that when the defense was arguing for a change of venue to a certain judge on the ground of editorial prejudice in New York, Thomas Murphy, for the government, formally noted a contention that the Herald Tribune's stories had been out of balance in the other direction.

The New York Times sounded a note so sad that one Steen M. Johnson came back in a vox pop to say: "Is the nation mourning the conviction of Alger Hiss? One would think so from your editorial, 'Mr. Hiss Found Guilty.'

"Isn't there a deeper meaning to the American people than a feeling of 'pathos and tragedy' for Mr. Hiss? I am amazed that your great newspaper would print comments that sound more like an apology for Hiss' conviction than calm editorial assessment of what surely must be one of the most shocking and tragic incidents in the lives of the present generation of Americans.

"IT must be remembered, however, that what he now stands convicted of is perjury. Does your paper derive satisfaction from that? The damning fact is that Alger Hiss had so many friends in high places, government and newspaper offices, that his high crimes and misdemeanors were not brought to light and were not cured by the passage of time, as you seem to imply, but prosecution has been barred by a benign statute."

That is a fair representation of the Times' sentiments on the conviction of a traitor by a jury and of Mr. Johnson's comment thereon, and the Times, be it noted, nominally a Democratic paper, is usually a little to the right of the Herald Tribune, which pretends, at least, to be Republican.

The fact could have been noted that Hiss needn't stand on his rights under the statute of limitations but may waive them and stand trial on the accusations which underlay the perjury indictments.

As a protege of Frankfurter, indeed of Roosevelt, himself, who took him to Yalta where he signed away the world to Stalin, he owes that to the prestige of his noted patrons.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S response was similar but marked with her own unique confusion. She had personal and official dealings with Hiss but notwithstanding the jury's verdict in that "democratic" process which she professes to revere, she cast doubt on the conviction.

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

Nobody ever said he "sold" any papers. The evidence showed that he was so devoted to the enemy of his own country that he gladly gave them over. The proposition that it was a very sad case because the jury convicted a man who never told her he was a traitor well expresses the thinking of our representative in the United Nations.

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