

Hiss: FBI Withheld Key Facts

By David C. Berliner
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NEW YORK, March 19—
Alger Hiss said today that
hundreds of newly released
documents proved that the
FBI withheld key information
from his perjury trial and
failed to clarify evidence
against him in court.

The former State Depart-
ment official, who served 44
months in prison for per-
jury after being charged
with participating in a 1938
Soviet spy conspiracy, said
the FBI knew that:

- The typewriter intro-
duced at his 1949-50 trial
was different than the one
once owned by him and his
wife, Priscilla.

- The couple had given
away the typewriter alleged
to have been used in the es-
pionage, several months be-
fore it was supposedly uti-
lized to copy government se-
crets.

"The FBI knew early on
what we didn't know—be-
cause we didn't know its sig-
nificance until after the con-
viction—that the typewriter
that had been given to my
wife from her father-in-law's
office when he retired was
bought in 1928," Hiss said in
an interview this afternoon.

The typewriter introduced
at the trial was actually
manufactured a year later,
he said. "It sat in court as
mute witness, without the
government ever introduc-
ing any evidence that it was
'the' typewriter," Hiss said.
"I guess they knew better."

Further, he reiterated his

Thursday statement here
that the FBI "was well
aware" that the original
typewriter had been given
to the family of a former
maid in the Hiss household
months before any of the al-
leged activities took place.

Hiss' statements are the
latest in his 26-year effort to
clear his name. Since his
conviction following charges
by the late Whittaker Cham-
bers that he stole docu-
ments from the State De-
partment to pass on to So-
viet agents, lawyer Hiss, 71
has sought to uncover evi-
dence supporting his inno-
cence.

A turning point in that ef-
fort was reached in January
when some 15,000 docu-
ments previously kept se-
cret by the FBI were re-
leased.

Hiss declined to comment
in depth on statements by
Allen Weinstein—a Smith
College professor and ex-
pert on the trial whose Free-
dom on Information Act suit
gained the release of the
FBI documents—that his re-
view of all the papers, in-
cluding defense documents
proved Hiss had been lying
about his dealings with
Chambers, a confessed com-
munist spy.

"All I'll say is that I think
it's clear that he has had a
biased point of view for
some time," Hiss said. "He
was presumptuous in never
asking my attorneys how
they felt about the newly re-
leased documentation."