



WANTS SHINGLE BACK — Alger Hiss, convicted of perjury in Cold War spy case 25 years ago that brought national attention to Richard M. Nixon, wants the Massachusetts Supreme Court to let him start prac-

ticing law again. These 1949 character studies reflect three moods before his perjury case went to the jury. (UPI Telephoto)

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LAUNCHED NIXON'S CAREER

Hiss Requests Return To Practice Of Law

BOSTON (UPI) — Alger Hiss asked court permission yesterday to return to the practice of law almost a quarter century after a spy case perjury conviction shattered his impressive career and helped launch that of Richard M. Nixon.

The slim, grey-haired former State Department official, now a stationery salesman in New York, sat impassively next to his son in the rear of the Massachusetts Supreme Court courtroom.

At the bench, his attorney, John Groden, told a panel of seven judges Hiss "contributed significantly" to society despite being denied the right to practice his profession.

Controversy has swirled about Hiss

since the House UnAmerican Activities Committee made his a household name in 1948. He served five years in prison on a conviction for perjury that came from that investigation.

Groden said whether the 71-year-old Harvard Law School graduate and one-time Boston attorney is allowed to take up law again should be decided by answering the question: "What is the moral character of Alger Hiss right now?"

The court took the matter under advisement.

Opposing attorney Robert DiGiacomo, representing the governing board of the Boston Bar Association, did not challenge the moral

character of the impeccably-dressed Hiss.

DiGiacomo argued neither moral character nor the perjury Hiss denies to this day are main issues. What really was involved in the case, DiGiacomo said, was "perjury based on espionage—there is no question of that." He went on to argue that no one involved in so serious a crime as spying should ever be allowed to practice law again.

But Supreme Court Chief Justice G. Joseph Tauro asked if in the intervening 25 years "any evidence of espionage" involving Hiss had been turned up.