

Not only microfilm brought Hiss down

7/12/75 WJ
Your June 26 story about the microfilm in the Hiss case being made available to Alger Hiss for examination contained some serious errors.

It indicated that the microfilm was the only documentary evidence Whittaker Chambers presented to substantiate his claim that Hiss was not only a Communist but a member of an espionage ring. That is not true. In addition to the microfilm, Chambers presented 65 pages of documentary evidence, much of it typed on Hiss's typewriter and some of it in Hiss's handwriting. These were copies or summaries of confidential State Department documents. These documents were as important, if not more important, than the microfilm.

Your story states that an Eastman Kodak technician had originally dated the microfilm as having been made in 1948. That is not correct. At first, Eastman indicated that this type of film had not been made before 1945. However, this was very quickly found to be an error. The type of film had been manufactured in the 1930s. It had been discontinued during the war, and production had resumed in 1945.

Your story says that Hiss did not learn of this flap over the date of manufacture until publication of Nixon's "My Six Crises" in 1962. This is strange, because Chambers tells about it in his book, "Witness," which was published in 1952.

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