

Hiss Wins Mass. Bar Admission

BOSTON, Aug. 5 (AP)—The Massachusetts Supreme Court today ordered that Alger Hiss be reinstated to practice law in Massachusetts.

Hiss, 70, asked last November to be reinstated to the Massachusetts bar. He was disbarred in 1952, two years after his conviction for perjury before a grand jury investigating espionage.

Whittaker Chambers, a senior editor of Time magazine at the time and an admitted courier for Soviet agents, said Hiss passed him secret documents when Hiss was a top State Department official. A House probe of the case vaulted young California Congressman Richard M. Nixon into the national spotlight.

The court said it did not consider whether Hiss was guilty or innocent. But it said, "We cannot subscribe to the arguments . . . that, because the offenses committed by Hiss are so serious, they forever bar reinstatement irrespective of good conduct or reform . . ."

"Such a harsh, unforgiving position is foreign to our system of reasonable, merciful justice," the court said.

Hiss served three years and eight months of a five-year sentence in federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa., before being released on Nov. 27, 1954. He also was fined \$10,000. After his release he worked as a stationery salesman in New York.