

# Tough Orders to Open Hiss Data

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The FBI is under tough orders from two angry judges to make public all the documents relating to the Hiss and Rosenberg cases within the next month and a half — or explain why.

Already reeling under an order from U.S. District Judge Junc Green to produce the Rosenberg papers, the bureau was ordered last week to produce the mountain of papers relating to the Alger Hiss case within the same strict time limits by Chief U.S. District Judge William B. Jones.

Although both orders are directed to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi and cover documents in the possession of other agencies, in addition to the FBI, the anger of

the judges is clearly directed primarily at the FBI.

IN A HEARING on Oct. 14 in a suit by Prof. Allen Weinstein to obtain the Hiss and Rosenberg papers, Jones complained that the case, which has been in the courts for three years, "has been dragging along, dragging along, dragging along."

The basic trouble, he said, is that the FBI — like other agencies — "didn't like the Freedom of Information Act."

"I won't say run-around, but just, in a sense, the foot-dragging because the case is overwhelming," he said, according to a transcript of the hearing on file in the court. "Really, that is what you get down to, plus a dislike for the act."

Jones was most critical

of an affidavit prepared earlier this year by Thomas Bresson, an official of the FBI's freedom of information unit.

"IT IS the most horrible example of an affidavit I have ever seen in this court in going on 14 years," Jones said, and then, addressing Michael Ryan, the government lawyer, he added: "If I were you as counsel, I wouldn't let him (Bresson) do that any more."

Bresson submitted another affidavit two weeks ago in a related case brought by Robert and Michael Meeropol, the sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, complaining that the FBI was being overwhelmed by the volume of papers it had to examine in the Rosenberg case and that it had done as

much as could be expected to comply with the court order to produce the papers in that case.

Jones' order applying the same strict timetable to the Hiss papers will virtually double the work the bureau will have to do to meet the requirement of making all of the documents not exempted under the law available by Dec. 15.

The documents in the two cases are believed to total more than 100,000 pages.