

Hiss Sues to Get 'Pumpkin Papers'

New York

Alger Hiss filed suit yesterday for access to the "pumpkin papers" which led to his perjury conviction 25 years ago and served as the springboard for the national political career of then-Congressman Richard Nixon.

"My complaint is I got railroaded," Hiss said. "My interest is the continuing search for evidence that will result in my vindication."

The 70-year-old former "boy wonder" of the State Department and adviser to Presidents asked in U.S. District Court that the Justice Department turn over five rolls of microfilm.

The film had been found hidden inside a hollowed-out pumpkin on the Westminster, Md., farm of the late Whittaker Chambers, a confessed Soviet courier.

Chambers testified that the films were of secret government documents given him by Hiss in a Communist conspiracy that started when they met as young men in New Deal Washington of the 1930s.

At a news conference in his lawyer's offices, Hiss said. "I never gave Cham-

bers secret papers. But largely because a young congressman named Nixon said he believed Chambers, I was convicted of perjury when I denied the charges and went to jail for 44 months."

Under the Freedom of Information Act, the suit filed by the National Emergency Civil Liberties Union in New York and Boston on behalf of Hiss and three others asked for access to the microfilm and several other documents.

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