SFChronicle AUG 1 4 1975 The Hiss Case

Editor — James Kilpatrick is a man who knows a "consummate liar" when he hears his name, unless that name happens to be Richard Nixon. Right up to the bitter end of the Watergate affair Kilpatrick insisted that Nixon was an honorable man. But let Alger Hiss, Nixon's first and most deeply damaged victim, be allowed to practice law before the Massachusetts Bar 'and Kilpatrick's rage knows no bounds. In his column of August 8 he proceeds to give us what he calls a "brief capitulation" of the case in which he gives the most ridiculous estimate of Whittaker Chambers I

have ever seen. Chambers, he says, was "America's Solzhenitsyn. . . who saw with terrible clarity the absolute evil of Communist ideology. Chambers wanted only to bear witness for freedom and against slavery. One day his greatness as writer, thinker and human being will be reconized."

Not everything is decided by a jury. Alger Hiss was convicted of perjury by as big a perjurer as Ananias needled by as unscrupulous an upstart as ever knifed his way to the top. And the release of those famous microfilms, so flashily waved by Nixon before the cameras, films on how to use a fire extinguisher, etc., prove it.

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