

Hiss Claims Vindication In Transcript

BALTIMORE, May 4 (AP)—Alger Hiss says President Nixon's Watergate transcripts tend to support Hiss' contention that the typewriter instrumental in his 1950 perjury conviction could have been tampered with.

Speaking at Johns Hopkins University last night, the 69-year-old former State Department official called the transcripts "a pleasant homecoming present."

Hiss referred to a Feb. 23, 1973, conversation between Nixon and former White House counsel John Dean. In the transcript, Nixon discusses the Hiss case:

"Then we worked that thing. We then got the evidence, we got the typewriter, we got the pumpkin papers . . . The FBI did not cooperate. The Justice Department did not cooperate . . ."

Hiss indicated the statement supports his contention that Nixon, then a freshman congressman from California, was so desperate to get political mileage out of the Hiss case that a typewriter could have been tampered with.

Hiss was accused in 1948 by Whittaker Chambers, an admitted former Communist Party member and courier, of passing documents to the Russians.

His unsuccessful appeal on a perjury conviction was based largely on the contention that the typewriter on which much of the evidence presented by the prosecution was written could have been either tampered with or fabricated.