

FBI Opening Its Files On Hiss, Rosenbergs

United Press International

The FBI is selling historians information from long-closed files — such as the Hiss and Rosenberg cases — but some of the researchers are finding the price is too steep, a spokesman said yesterday.

Under a regulation issued last February by former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and amplified last July by his successor, Elliot Richardson, the FBI is opening its criminal investigation files for the first time.

But it is reserving the right to decide what files will be opened, what information will be released and who can buy it, the spokesman said.

The files requested thus far include the cases of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the American spies convicted and execu-

ted in 1953 for disclosing atomic-bomb secrets; and Alger Hiss, the former government official accused of giving secrets to the former Communist, Whittaker Chambers.

Another file that has been requested is that of the late Ezra Pound, the poet who was accused of treason but never tried.

A first installment based on the 25,000-page Rosenberg file, is being readied for delivery possibly next week, to Prof. Allen Weinstein, a historian at Smith College.

The cost can run high — Weinstein's request was estimated at \$5,000 — and some applicants are revising their requests after getting preliminary estimates of the fees, the spokesman said.