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Levi is Releasing Microfilm to Hiss

by Lesley Oelsner

Washington, June 25 - Attorney General Edward H. Levi agreed today to give Alger Hiss and three scholars [William A. Reuben, Stephen W. Salant, Dr. Peter H. Irons] access to the so-called "pumpkin papers" microfilm, subject only to deletions required for "national security" or other "compelling" reasons.

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The pumpkin papers were the key to an investigation spearheaded by Richard M. Nixon, then a young Republican Representative from California. The Hiss-Chambers case proved to be a major [step-up] in Mr. Nixon's career.

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The microfilm has been one of the chief aspects of the case that Mr. Hiss's defenders have questioned in part because of a statement prior to Mr. Hiss's trial by a spokesman for Eastman Kodak.

Mr. Chambers testified that he exposed the film in 1938, the year that he said Mr. Hiss gave him the documents. The Kodak spokesman had said, however, that

that the film in question could not have been manufactured until 10 years later. Later, the spokesman revised his statement and said that the film could have been made earlier.

Mr. Levi's agreement ... came in partial response to requests that Mr. Hiss and the three others had filed under the Freedom of Information Act for the film and for other documents relating to the case.

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Other clippings on Hiss will be filed Nixon; they begin 6 Jun 75.