

Records on Hiss Released by F.B.I.Data Indicate House Panel Got Evidence First

Washington, Sept. 3 (UPI) - The Federal Bureau of investigation's records of its Alger Hiss investigation show its agents often were at a disadvantage in gathering evidence because a Congressional committee got it first.

Competing with the F.B.I. for evidence linking the former State Department official with a Communist spy ring was then-Representative Richard M. Nixon, whose anti-Hiss efforts won him national prominence in 1948, four years before he was elected Vice President.

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The released documents gave details of F.B.I. agents trying to get a step ahead of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, now defunct, and Mr. Hiss's chief accuser, Mr. Nixon.

The volume [records] consists mostly of memorandums between J. Edgar Hoover ... and various F.B.I. agents during the 1948 investigation.

It appears from the memos that Mr. Chambers was prone to give leads to Mr. Nixon's investigators before the F.B.I. heard about them.

For its part, the F.B.I. was sharply criticised in the press, which used articles about the bureau's inability to get the evidence. Those articles were apparently supplied by the committee, and in at least one case by Mr. Nixon.

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(The records, 350 page collection, were released under the Freedom of Information Act.)