

Suit By a Professor Says F.B.I. Reneged On Secret-Files Vow

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Allen Weinstein, a history professor, made the allegation in papers filed in United States District Court on Tuesday.

Professor Weinstein, director of American studies at the college in Northampton, Mass., has been trying for nearly three years to obtain access to F.B.I. files on the investigation of Mr. Hiss. A former State Department official, Mr. Hiss was convicted of perjury in 1950 after denying to a grand jury that he had given state secrets to Communist spies.

Professor Weinstein has tried almost as long to get the files on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of passing atomic bomb secrets to Soviet spies and were executed in 1953.

Professor Weinstein thought he would get the papers after former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson issued regulations granting historians access to files more than 15 years old and no longer related to pending investigations. The regulations allow the F.B.I. to censor the names of informers and material that might infringe upon personal privacy if made public.

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As Attorney General, Elliot L. Richardson opened a number of F.B.I. files to historians, and Mr. Kelley at first said the Hiss and Rosenberg files would be included. He has since decided not to make them public, however.