

Whittaker Chambers Library to Open

A library featuring the personal papers of anti-communist hero Whittaker Chambers will be opened on the site of his farm.

Chambers' son John made the disclosure in a conversation with America's Survival, Inc. President Cliff Kincaid during a visit to the Chambers farm on July 11. Chambers, who now owns the property, said that he has started a process to build a library and catalogue the papers, now in boxes and stacks in various locations. He said he has turned down offers from universities interested in acquiring some of the papers because he wants to make sure all of them are displayed and open to the public. He said he hopes to open the library next Spring.



The Whittaker Chambers Farm

In a major case that gripped the nation after the end of World War II, Whittaker Chambers' charges that senior State Department official Alger Hiss was a communist and Soviet spy were proven in court. Chambers went on to write *Witness*, which not only described the details of the case and his effort to tell the truth about communist penetration of the highest levels of the U.S. Government, but served as a basis for the establishment of the modern conservative movement. Chambers maintained that the nation's only hope of surviving was in maintaining its spiritual foundation, belief in God, and commitment to freedom.

This report is published and distributed by America's Survival, Inc.
Cliff Kincaid, President. Kincaid@comcast.net www.USAsurvival.org

Chambers passed away in 1961. Hiss died in 1996.

Witness was a major influence on President Ronald Reagan, who resisted the advance of Soviet communism, especially in Central America, and laid the groundwork for the collapse of the “evil empire.”

Scholars Welcome Library

“It is of course premature at this point to speculate about the value of Whittaker Chambers’ personal papers without an archival review,” said G. Edward White, author of Alger Hiss’s *Looking-Glass Wars*. “But the possibility of a rich depository of the papers of an individual who was so intimately involved, in multiple ways, with Soviet espionage in the United States from the 1920s until his death in 1961, is an exciting one for historians of those years.”

White, professor of law at the University of Virginia, added that, “For persons interested in the Hiss case, and in the numerous dimensions of Soviet-American relations from the formation of the Soviet Union in 1918 to its collapse in 1989 and the aftermath of that collapse, Whittaker Chambers’s personal papers may prove to be a treasure trove.”

Herbert Romerstein, former chief investigator for the House Committee on Un-American Activities (later the House Internal Security Committee), said that a Whittaker Chambers library will focus attention on a critical period in American history. “This is a man who warned us very early of the dangers of the Soviet Union and Soviet espionage,” he said. “The United States did not listen to him for at least 10 more years. Had we listened to him back in 1939, we might have been a lot safer during the Cold War period. We would have been able to expose the Soviet espionage rings that functioned during the war and the Cold War.”

Chambers emphasized in *Witness* that these secret communists not only served the interests of the Soviet Union but promoted the triumph of communism in China.

Chambers, who became a writer for *Time* magazine, had served in the Fourth Section of Soviet military intelligence and provided information about members of the communist apparatus, including Hiss, to Adolf Berle, the security officer of the State Department, in 1939. But nothing much was done with the revelations until the House Committee on Un-American Activities, especially one of its members, Rep. Richard Nixon, examined them in 1948. Hiss was eventually prosecuted and convicted of perjury for denying he was a communist and Soviet spy. But that came in 1950. By then, the statute of limitations on espionage had run out. Hiss was given a 5-year prison term but only served three years and eight months.



Whittaker Chambers

He left the State Department in 1946 to become the president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

As a senior State Department official, Hiss had laid the groundwork for the U.N. and became its first acting secretary-general, causing it to be dubbed “the house that Hiss built.” He also advised President Franklin Roosevelt at the Yalta conference, which defined post-World War II Europe and betrayed Eastern European nations to Soviet control.

“In accusing Hiss of Communism,” wrote Chambers, “I had attacked an architect of the U.N., and the partisans of peace fell upon me like combat boots. I had attacked an intellectual and a ‘liberal.’”

The Farm Today

The Whittaker Chambers farm, located in Westminster, Maryland, in Carroll County, was declared a national historic landmark under the Reagan Administration and President Reagan posthumously bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Chambers.

The farm is the scene of the famous pumpkin patch where the “pumpkin papers” had been hidden by Chambers before being turned over to the House Committee on un-American Activities. The “papers” were actually microfilm copies of secret and stolen State Department documents given to Chambers by Hiss for transmission to the Soviet Union. “The “pumpkin papers” constituted absolute proof of Hiss’s guilt. The patch today is part of the lawn.

John Chambers said he considers himself a farmer, not a political person, but does have to spend some of his time fighting attempts by the County Commissioners to seize part of his farmland in order to build a dam and a lake for development purposes. He vowed never to give up that fight.



Alger Hiss

He recalled being about 13 years old and joining his father for an appearance on NBC’s Meet the Press. John Chambers sat in the small studio audience and his father was grilled by journalists about his charges against Hiss. In Witness, a young John Chambers is quoted as later saying, “Papa, why did those men hate you so?”

It was on this program that Hiss declared, “Alger Hiss was a communist and may still be one.”

NBC’s Russert Recalls Case

NBC Meet the Press moderator Tim Russert mentioned the exchange on his April 8, 2007, show, after pro-Hiss forces had held a conference at New York University (NYU). The “Alger Hiss and History” event at NYU was co-sponsored by NYU’s Tamiment Library, which had earlier this year received a massive

donation of tens of thousands of books, photos, papers, notes, and audio, video and film documents from the Communist Party, USA. In a press release, the CPUSA noted that, "The papers of many communist leaders present and past are already housed at Tamiment..."



Tim Russert gave credence to a pro-Alger Hiss conference held at New York University.

On March 23, 2007, the Tamiment Library and the Working Class History Association had sponsored a symposium entitled, "The History of the Communist Party, USA and Progressive Politics Today: Relating the Past to the Present."

The official program of the symposium included the following:

Welcome: Michael Nash (Tamiment Library)
Terrie Albano (People's Weekly World)
Frank Barbaro (New Democratic Majority)
Rosalyn Baxandall (SUNY-Old Westbury)
Leslie Cagan (United for Peace and Justice)
Assemblyman Dick Gottfried
Gerald Horne (University of Houston)
David Kline (Veterans for Peace)
Steve Kramer (SEIU Local 1199)
Daniel Leab (American Communist History)
Norman Markowitz (Rutgers University)
Jarvis Tyner (Communist Party, USA)
Pregones, Dramatic reading with music "Jesus Colon and the Communist Party in East Harlem"
Film clips from the Archives of the Communist Party
Co-sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

Here is the presentation that Tim Russert made about the Hiss case on Meet the Press:

*Mr. Russert: On August 3^d, 1948, Whittaker Chambers, a Time magazine editor and one-time Soviet agent, appeared voluntarily before the House Un-American Activities Committee and testified that former State Department official Alger Hiss was a Communist. An outraged Hiss denied the charge.
(Videotape)*

*Mr. Alger Hiss: I am not and never have been a member of the Communist Party.
(End of videotape)*

*Mr. Russert: He challenged Chambers to repeat it outside the protection of the immunity granted witnesses before the congressional committees. Chambers did just that on the radio edition of MEET THE PRESS, Friday night, August 27th, 1948.
(Audiotape, August 27, 1948)*

Mr. Edward Folliard [Washington Post]: Mr. Chambers, in the hearings on Capital Hill, you said over and over again that you served in the Communist Party with Alger Hiss. Your remarks down there were privileged. That is to say, you were protected from lawsuits. Hiss has now challenged you to make the same charge publicly. He says that if you do, he will test your veracity by filing a suit for slander or libel. Are you willing to say now that Alger Hiss is or ever was a Communist?

Mr. Whittaker Chambers: Alger Hiss was a Communist and may be now.

Mr. Folliard: Mr. Chambers, does that mean that you're now prepared to go into court and answer to a suit for slander or libel?

*Mr. Chambers: I do not think that Mr. Hiss will sue me for slander or libel.
(End of audiotape)*

Mr. Russert: Alger Hiss did sue Whittaker Chambers for slander for what he said on Meet The Press. In a deposition in the case, Mr. Chambers broadened his allegations and accused Alger Hiss of outright espionage, stealing state and navy documents. Chambers produced some microfilm documents after hiding them in a hollowed out pumpkin on his Maryland farm. Because the statute of limitations on espionage had expired, Alger Hiss was indicted on two charges of perjury, accusing him of lying under oath about meetings with Whittaker Chambers and stealing documents. A first trial ended in a hung jury, but on January 21st, 1950, Hiss was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. He served three years and eight months at Lewisburg Penitentiary with time off for good behavior. Hiss continued to proclaim his innocence right up until his death in 1996 at the age of 92. His son, Tony Hiss, has made his father's vindication a focus of his life. And on Thursday at a New York University symposium about the Hiss case, his stepson, Timothy Hobson, spoke publicly about the case for the first time.

(Videotape)

Mr. Timothy Hobson: This is the first chance that I've had to publicly share my side of the story. My version of what truth and reality really are. The bottom line of my story is that I lived with the Hisses from the age of three to the age of 14, when I went to high school. I was there during all of the years and moments that these alleged incidents of espionage were supposed to have taken place. I personally know that Chambers was lying in telling the story because he wasn't there.

(End of videotape)

Mr. Russert: Almost 60 years later, and the debate over Alger Hiss continues. And we'll be right back.

But the debate "continues" only for those who want to cling to the fiction that Hiss may have been innocent.



Anthony Lake: President Clinton's former national security advisor and nominee for CIA director had doubts as to whether Alger Hiss was really a spy. He is now raising money for and advising Senator Barack Obama.

Anthony Lake, President Clinton's former national security adviser, had also talked about the Hiss case on Meet the Press, where he, too, expressed doubts that Hiss was a Soviet military intelligence spy. He had been nominated by Clinton to be director of the CIA in November 1996, following the resignation of Clinton's Director of Central Intelligence John Deutch. (Deutch could have been prosecuted for mishandling classified information but Clinton gave him a last minute pardon before he left office.)

Tim Russert asked Lake: "You're a student of history. Do you believe Alger Hiss was a spy?"

Lake, who had joined the State Department in 1962 and served until 1970 as a Foreign Service Officer, responded, "I've read a couple of books that have certainly offered a lot of evidence that he may have been. I don't think it's conclusive."

The Hiss remark may have played a role in destroying his chances for confirmation. As a result of this and other controversies, Lake, who had also worked at the Carnegie Endowment, asked that his nomination be withdrawn.

However, he has returned to the political scene and is now backing and raising money for Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008.

The Evidence

As White observes, "Chambers' version of the Hiss case has turned out to be correct. Previously classified intelligence documents in U.S. and Soviet archives were made public for a brief interval in the early 1990s, and those documents definitively resolved what many close observers of the Hiss case had known since his perjury trials: Hiss was a spy for the Soviet Union who chose never to acknowledge that publicly."

The Venona Secrets, by Herbert Romerstein and Eric Breindel, and published in 2000, notes that decoded Soviet messages identified Hiss as working for Soviet military intelligence.

On April 5, three days before Tim Russert returned to the topic on his April 8, 2007, Meet the Press show, the Washington Post had published an article about the NYU pro-Hiss conference. Post reporter Lynne Duke, a veteran correspondent for the paper, said about the case, "Alger Hiss was a spy, many scholars say. He was not, say many others."

A caption to a Post photo of Hiss stepson Timothy Hobson referred to Hiss "allegedly" passing secrets to the Soviets.

Duke also claimed that "...it has to be noted that he was never indicted for espionage."

However, a correction to this story has now been included on the Post website. It says, "An April 5 Style article said that Alger Hiss was never indicted on espionage charges. The reason, it should have added, was that the statute of limitations had run out."

Whittaker Chambers wrote in his book that during the time of the case the Post was "the most implacable of the pro-Hiss newspapers" and a "staunch friend" of the traitor.

The Invisible Man

On the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, 2005, the State Department published a report about how it was established, carefully omitting any mention of Hiss's pivotal role. "That was just a brief summary paper on the organization itself as I recall," said State Department historian Marc J. Susser. He claimed that the document was a "bare-bones history" and "brief outline" of the world body. Susser said he didn't write it but "went over it." He explained, "Somebody in the office did it." (The document, "The United States and the Founding of the United Nations, August 1941 - October 1945," is available at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/55407.htm>).

Susser is described on the website of the Organization of American Historians as historian of the U.S. Department of State and director of the Office of the Historian, which is part of the State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs. This office is described as being "responsible for the publication of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, which is the official documentary record of U.S. foreign policy."

Glancing over the State Department report on the U.N., Susser noted that the paper, more than 2600 words in length, mentions "a couple presidents" and "a few secretaries" but "doesn't go down much below that level..." He added, "It doesn't go into the level of who in the department was actually involved in this."

Yet there was a reference in the State Department report to the role of Harry Hopkins, noting that he had had "many wartime discussions with Stalin" and was "directed" by President Truman "to travel to Moscow and negotiate with the Soviet leader" about the U.N. Charter. Asked why evidence was not included in the report about Hopkins being a Soviet agent of influence, Susser said he was not familiar with the information.



State Department historian Marc J. Susser.
A report from his office on the founding of the U.N. ignored the role of Alger Hiss.

The revelations about Hopkins, who had also served as the closest and most influential adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, first surfaced in a 1990 book by Christopher Andrew based on information provided by Oleg Gordievsky, a high-level KGB officer who had been smuggled out of the Soviet Union by British intelligence. Gordievsky reported that Iskhak Ahkmerov, the KGB officer who controlled the illegal Soviet agents in the U.S. during the war, had said that Hopkins was "the most important of all Soviet wartime agents in the United States."

In *Harry Hopkins. A Biography*, a flattering book about the former aide to FDR and Truman published in 1977, the author, Henry H. Adams, writes about the trip referred to in the State Department report on the founding of the U.N. Adams says that Hopkins "probably saved the United Nations..."

The United Nations is not shy about acknowledging Hiss's role in the founding of the U.N. and includes on its website interviews conducted with Hiss in 1990, in which he says he worked on "peace treaties" as well as the U.N. Hiss, who became director of the State Department Office of Special Political Affairs, explains that the founders of the U.N. believed in "the necessary powers that an international organization should have" and that "greater powers" and even a military staff committee were provided to the U.N. Security Council so that the world body would be able to "enforce" its will on the world.



The U.N. Oral History Collection at <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unationsday/> includes a "selection of interviews held with eminent personalities associated with the United Nations over the years, related to the San Francisco Conference (1945), the history of the founding of the Organization and its important role in conflict resolution since 1945." One of these "eminent personalities" is Alger Hiss.

Soros-funded College Features Alger Hiss Chair

While NYU holds a conference and has a website honoring Alger Hiss, Bard College, a liberal arts school in Annandale, New York, named a chair in honor of the convicted spy. A “Visiting Alger Hiss Professor of History and Literature” is now at the college.

Bard’s president Leon Botstein was identified in the June 1, 2004, issue of USA Today as a “longtime” adviser to billionaire leftist George Soros. He was identified by name in the acknowledgements section of Soros’ 2006 book, The Age of Fallibility, and serves on the board of the Soros-funded Open Society Institute.

Susan Weber Soros, then the wife of George Soros, sits on Bard’s Board of Trustees and was involved in a \$120 million contribution by board members to the school in 2001.

While Hiss himself was paid to lecture on many college campuses, a series of “Alger Hiss lectures” in honor of the communist spy was announced in 2002 by the pro-Marxist Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), which acknowledged receiving a bequest from the estate of Alger and Isabel Johnson Hiss. The IPS described Alger Hiss this way:

“Lawyer, writer, distinguished New Dealer, and leader in the creation of the United Nations, Alger Hiss is thought by many people to have been a tragic victim of the Cold War anti-communist fervor of the late 40s and early 50s.”



America's Survival, Inc. President Cliff Kincaid visits with John Chambers, son of American patriot and anti-communist hero Whittaker Chambers, in front of the Chambers farm. John Chambers revealed to Cliff that he intends to build a library near the Whittaker Chambers farm to feature his father's personal papers and books. The farm, located in Westminster, Maryland, is a national historic landmark.



The site of the former pumpkin patch where the "pumpkin papers" were stored by Whittaker Chambers. The "pumpkin papers," stolen and secret State Department documents given to Chambers by Hiss and hidden in the form of microfilm in a hollowed-out pumpkin at Chambers' farm, were absolute proof of Hiss's role as a Soviet spy