Alger Hiss was made President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the recommendation of the committee composed of John W. Davis, John Foster Dulles and Arthur Ballantine.

Just as he had gained the confidence of these gentlemen and so many others, Mr. Hiss had gained my confidence when I saw something of him as a fellow member of the Citizens Committee for the Marshall Plan.

When Mr. Hiss categorically denied the charges made against him in the course of his appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, in August 1948, I assumed that he was telling the truth, and I regretted that he was being made the victim of what I then thought was an unjustified attack. Accordingly, I did what I felt was the still human thing to do. As I attach great importance to that basic rule of conduct which has so long governed the Anglo-Saxon world—to consider a man innocent until he has been found guilty—I sent him a line to express my sympathy in the difficult position in which he found himself. This was before his confrontation with Whittaker Chambers, and long before his indictment and subsequent conviction.