

Stans takes stand in own defense

Denies charge of secret Vesco payoff

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans testified Wednesday that financier Robert L. Vesco never received a payoff in return for a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's 1972 election campaign.

The former Cabinet member took the witness stand in his own defense at the federal criminal conspiracy trial in which he is a codefendant with onetime Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell.

When Vesco made the donation, he was the target of a massive Securities and Exchange Commission frauds investigation.

Mitchell and Stans are accused of seeking to impose this probe in exchange for the \$200,000. They are charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury.

Stans said that at the March 8, 1972 meeting in which the money was pledged, it was he and not Vesco who raised the matter of the SEC investigation.

He testified: "He said, 'Well that has been going on almost a year. We have been trying to resolve it. But the problem was that the SEC was harassing us and we haven't been able to sit down and settle it. Our lawyers haven't been able to

get to see the commissioners.' "I said, 'Mr. Vesco, that should be no problem. Anybody having trouble with a government agency should be able to go to the head of that agency,' I said something to the effect that 'I hope you work out your SEC matter

satisfactorily,' He said, 'I'm sure we will.' "

However, Stans said that because of the SEC matter, he put a hold on the pending Vesco contribution until he could "check him out" with Mitchell. The two former Cabinet col-

leagues had resigned their offices by that time to run the Nixon re-election campaign.

The liaison man for Vesco with Stans and Mitchell was Harry Sears, a political friend of Mitchell who had gone to work as a \$60,000-a-year Vesco legal aide. Regarding his meeting later with Mitchell, Stans testified:

"I told him I had met Vesco and talked with Sears and Vesco was prepared to give a contribution of \$250,000. I said that I had discussed with Sears that Vesco had a matter pending be-

fore the SEC, that Sears had described himself as a good friend of yours, John Mitchell's.

"I said, 'I want your assurance as to the propriety of taking \$250,000.' I meant as a matter of moral corrections in what I would ever be embarrassed, publicly or privately by taking a contribution."

Stans testified that he and Mitchell discussed Sears' report that the SEC investigation was winding down and that the lawyers said he had done nothing wrong.

Judge criticizes FBI, prosecution

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A federal judge refused to dismiss charges Wednesday against American Indian Movement leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means, who are charged in last year's 71-day takeover of Wounded Knee, S. D.

However, U. S. District Court Judge Fred J. Nichol said the government could not use any evidence it had acquired by monitoring the single telephone in the village.

The government had an extension to the telephone at a roadblock it had set up outside the village.

The judge coupled his order with criticism of the prosecution and the FBI.

He said the government had

done a poor job of preparing its case and presenting some of the evidence. He said the FBI had withheld information that should have been delivered to government attorneys and turned over to the defense.

Judge Nichol said the government's roadblock phone was not used to facilitate negotiations, which the government said was its chief purpose in installing it.

But he also said there was no evidence the FBI had monitored any conversations between defense attorneys and clients over the phone. Attorneys for Banks and Means had alleged such monitoring had taken place, violating their rights.

In criticizing the prosecution, headed by Asst. U. S. Atty. R. D. Hurd, Nichol said, "There was a serious underestimation of their responsibilities to assure that discoverable material was produced."

bulletin board

- TONIGHT**
PANHANDLE HOMETOWN CLUB will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 501 of the Rudder Tower.
- AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION will elect officers in Room 407 of the Rudder Tower at 7:30 p.m.
- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Professor Michael Murphy's house at 305 Pershing.
- CEPHEID VARIABLE COMMITTEE will meet in Room 504 at 7:30 p.m.
- CAP AND GOWN will meet in Room 501 of the Rudder Tower at 8 p.m.
- SCONA will discuss topics for next year's conference in the MSC council conference room at 7 p.m.

Library honors donors

Friends of the TAMU Library honored donors of a J. Frank Dobie Collection Wednesday.

Jeff Dykes, bookman of College Park, Md., and his daughter, Martha Dykes Goldsmith of Clarksville, Tenn., received Friends Philanthropic Awards.

The organization also paid tribute to John B. Smith, director of TAMU Libraries who resigned to accept an appointment in New York.

Dr. Llerena Friend addressed the third annual meeting of the Friends of the Library. She is the former librarian of the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Friend discussed early library history at TAMU. She referred to her student days and attending cadet dances at A&M.

Officers headed by Dr. John P. Abbott were elected for 1974-75. Abbott, distinguished professor emeritus of English, will chair the organization devoted to developing support for the library.

C. C. "Polly" Krueger was re-elected vice chairman. Mrs. Eleanor Nance was elected secretary-treasurer.

Also honored were Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Ingram of Houston. Civil War letters of their grandparents were presented recently to the TAMU Archives. A Friends of the Library keepsake publication, "Hurrah for the Texans," was prepared by Dr. Charles Schultz, archivist, from the collection.

Among more than 50 attending the meeting were Clyde Wells, chairman of TAMU Board of Directors; artist E. M. "Buck" Schiwetz, and Mrs. Jack Williams. Liberal Arts Dean W. David Maxwell represented the university administration.

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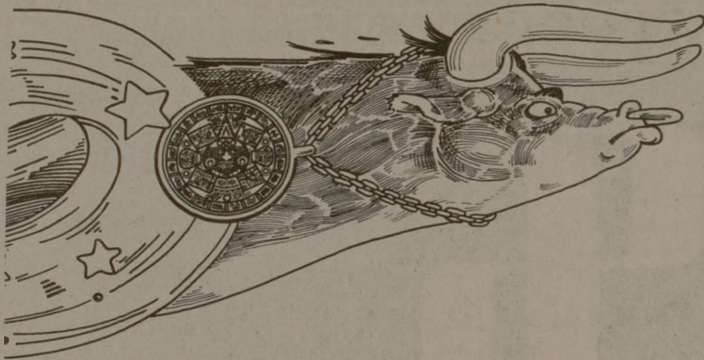
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