

Cook Tells Senators About S.E.C.'s Vesco Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, May 14—The chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, G. Bradford Cook, testified under oath for nearly five hours today before a Senate subcommittee about the agency's investigation of Robert L. Vesco.

The hearing before the Appropriations subcommittee was designed to explore allegations that Mr. Cook had been persuaded to delete from a lawsuit by the commission any mention of a \$200,000 cash contribution from Mr. Vesco to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign. The money subsequently was returned.

A grand jury in New York last week indicted two former Nixon Cabinet members—John N. Mitchell, who had been Attorney General, and Maurice H. Stans, who had been Secretary of Commerce—on charges of perjury, conspiracy to obstruct justice and to defraud the United States. It was alleged that they had conspired to accept the contribution in exchange for an effort to influence the S.E.C. investigation.

Mr. Cook was called before the subcommittee by its chairman, Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, to explain among other things why he had originally told the subcommittee that he had had no dealings with Mr. Stans about the Vesco case until after the commission filed its lawsuit.

'Corrected' Testimony

According to Mr. Proxmire, Mr. Cook "corrected" the testimony last week, advising the subcommittee that he had discussed the case with Mr. Stans before the S.E.C. took its action.

Neither Mr. Cook nor the two Senators who heard his testimony and that of other agency officials this afternoon would comment on the details. The hearing was closed.

Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, was asked during a break in the hearing whether Mr. Cook was forthcoming with his testimony.

"He's under oath and he's testifying," Mr. Brooke replied.

Senator Proxmire later confirmed that the commission chairman had been required to give sworn testimony. He said that it was the first time he had ever asked a witness to appear before the subcommittee under oath.

Mr. Proxmire said he had not

decided what use to make of the information obtained from Mr. Cook and the aides, including Stanley Sporkin, an investigator for the agency, and Robert Kushner, one of the government lawyers in the Vesco case.