

Casey Says He Did Not Know Of Any Mishandling on Vesco

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WASHINGTON, May 17 (UPI) — Under Secretary of State William J. Casey said today that he had no knowledge of any wrongdoing in the Securities and Exchange Commission's handling of a fraud case against Robert L. Vesco when Mr. Casey was S.E.C. chairman. Mr. Vesco is a New Jersey financier.

Mr. Casey, who is on a Latin-American tour with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, issued a statement through the State Department a day after his successor as S.E.C. chairman, G. Bradford Cook, resigned.

Mr. Cook resigned in the wake of allegations that he had deleted references to a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign from a commission complaint against Mr. Vesco.

Mr. Casey said he had no intention of resigning from the State Department.

Mr. Cook was general counsel of the S.E.C. at the time of the Vesco investigation, which resulted in a civil indictment against Mr. Vesco and others for allegedly looting \$224-million from four mutual funds.

In his statement, Mr. Casey said that he had been aware of the S.E.C. investigation, but that he had had no knowledge that \$250,000 involved in the case was actually an unreported contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

"Cook recommended that this additional fact be pleaded gen-



Associated Press

William J. Casey

erally. I told him to work it out with Stanley Sporkin, who as enforcement chief was in charge of the case with Cook," Mr. Casey said.

"I had no knowledge that Cook had discussed the added paragraph with Stans or anyone else outside the S.E.C. and had no information as to how the \$250,000 had been used." Maurice H. Stans was then Mr. Nixon's chief fund raiser.

Mr. Vesco, Mr. Stans, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former New Jersey political leader, Harry L. Sears, were indicted last week in New York for allegedly conspiring to defraud the United States and obstruct justice in connection with the S.E.C. proceedings against Mr. Vesco.