

White House Provides Judge Nixon-Dean Tape

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (UPI) — The White House turned over to a federal judge in New York today a tape recording of a federal judge in New York today a tape recording over to a federal judge in President Nixon and John W. Dean III about a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the President's re-election campaign.

U.S. District Court Judge Lee Gagliardi said he would study the tape in private to determine whether it contained information relevant to the conspiracy and obstruction of justice trial of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans. The trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 9.

The tape is of a Feb. 28 conversation at the White House in which Dean, then counsel to the President, has testified that Mr. Nixon asked him if his brother, Edward, was involved in any way in the "Vesco matter."

Millionaire Robert L. Vesco, now a fugitive, is alleged to have made the contribution to the President's re-election campaign last year in order to obtain favorable treatment in

a federal investigation of his financial dealings.

Dean testified to the Senate Watergate committee that he told the President his brother was an "innocent agent in the transfer of the contribution."

Dean has been described as a key government witness in the pending trial of Mitchell and Stans.

Earlier this month, the judge had ruled that a partial transcript of the tape recording was "not sufficient" for him to determine if the material was relevant.

White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt later notified James Rayhill, federal prosecutor in the case, that the tape would be made available.

Mitchell and Stans, who headed the President's re-election campaign, are accused of attempting to influence the Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco in exchange for his contribution.

The indictment filed last May alleged that Mitchell "caused" Dean to ask the SEC to withhold certain information about the Vesco contribution.