

New Government Witness' Story

How Vesco Got to

New York.

Within minutes after Robert L. Vesco promised to contribute \$500,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign, Maurice H. Stans tried to get him an appointment for that same day with John N. Mitchell, a government witness testified yesterday.

Vesco, who finally contributed \$200,000 in cash, sought the meeting to get Mitchell to help quash a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco's financial dealings, it is alleged.

The government witness, Laurence B. Richardson Jr., a former associate of Ves-

co's, was unable to say whether Vesco did in fact meet with Mitchell that day, March 8, 1972.

Mitchell and Stans are accused of conspiracy, perjury and obstruction of justice for having allegedly attempted to impede the SEC investigation of Vesco in return for the \$200,000 campaign contribution.

First, Richardson said, he and Vesco were introduced to Stans, a former secretary of commerce who at the time was chief fund raiser for the president's campaign, in Stans' Washington office.

"He started by saying he

had been a big supporter of Mr. Nixon in 1968; and intends to be a generous giver in 1972, but he had a problem."

"And the problem was that he and his company were under investigation by the SEC, and that the investigation had been going on for more than a year and had not produced any charges . . . he wanted to find a way to bring it to a conference and a settlement."

"Well, how much you got in mind to give," Richardson quoted Stans as asking, and then the witness added: "Vesco said, well, he wanted

Meet Mitchell

to be in the front row, and how much did you have to give to be in the front row?"

"Mr. Stans said, well we expect X number of people to give a million dollars, and he gave a number that might give half a million or more. Then he said, 'What have you got in mind?' And Mr. Vesco said, 'I think I would like to give a half million, and what I would propose to do is give \$250,000 now, and \$250,000 later . . .'"

He then told how Vesco asked in what form the contribution should be given, and how "Mr. Stans said he would like it in currency."

Then, according to Rich-

ardson, Stans said, "I can't help you with this (the SEC investigation) but let's see if we can get you an appointment with Mitchell today while you are here."

The witness said Stans picked up the telephone, held a whispered conversation and then sent him and Vesco to Mitchell's office, in the same building.

He did not know, he said, whether Vesco saw Mitchell that day, because when they arrived in Mitchell's outer office, Vesco told him that he did not "require" his presence any longer and sent him away.

Richardson is an unindict-



UPI Telephoto

L. RICHARDSON
A government witness

ed co-conspirator in the case. Mitchell, a former attorney general, was an official in Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign at the time of the alleged visit.

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