

Mitchell Warning On Vesco Told

New York

Daniel Hofgren, a former White House aide, testified yesterday that he had asked John N. Mitchell if he had had a meeting with Robert L. Vesco on the financier's problems and was told "You stay away from that."

He added, "when John Mitchell says, 'You stay away from it', I stay away from it." The line evoked a loud laugh from Mitchell.

Hofgren then said that the following day he told Maurice Stans that "I had run into Mr. Mitchell and that Mitchell said, 'Stay away

from the Vesco matter', and Mr. Stans replied, "O.K., we'll take care of it in another way."

Hofgren's testimony went to the heart of one of the perjury counts against Mitchell, the former attorney general, who had testified before a Grand Jury on April 24, 1973, that he "never told Mr. Hofgren to stay away from anything."

In other developments yesterday relating to the conspiracy charges against Mitchell and Stans, Hugh W. Sloan Jr., another former White House aide, testified that a record of Vesco's se-

cret \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign was destroyed at Stans' behest.

And W. Mark Felt, former second in command of the FBI testified that Mitchell, when he was attorney General, used the FBI's overseas personnel to intercede on behalf of Vesco who was in a Swiss Jail following a suit by stockholders.

Mitchell and Stans, who were both leaders of the Nixon re-election campaign, are accused of perjury, obstruction of justice and conspiracy for allegedly attempting to impede a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco in return for the \$200,000 cash contribution.

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