

Miss Woods Says Vesco Not on List

By Stephen Isaacs

Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, March 18—

Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's secretary, testified here today that Robert L. Vesco's name was absent from a list of pre-April 7, 1972, campaign contributors that had been sent to her.

Her testimony, which lasted 26 minutes, came on the 20th day of the trial of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans on charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and lying to a grand jury.

The government alleges that Stans and Mitchell intervened in an investigation of Vesco by the Securities and Exchange Commission in exchange for a secret \$200,000 contribution to the campaign in cash.

The cash was delivered April 10, three days after a new campaign reporting law became effective, but Stans' defense is claiming the gift was a pre-April 7 one since it was promised prior to the cutoff date.

Prosecutors subpoenaed Miss Woods to appear here to testify to a voluminous list of pre-April 7 donors that Stans had sent to her for possible use, she said, in making up invitation lists to White House parties.

She received the list, she said, in June, 1972.

Miss Woods was accompanied by her Washington lawyer, Charles Rhyne, and by Rhyne's son.

When asked to do so by Mitchell counsel Peter E. Fleming Jr., Miss Woods smiled at Mitchell, about 30 feet in front of her, and said, "I can identify him—a very fine man."

When she was asked by Stans' counsel to identify

See MITCHELL, A9, Col. 1

MITCHELL, From A1

Stans, she said, "Another fine man, if I may say so."

Stans' attorney, Robert W. Barker, had Miss Woods bring another list of contributors to court with her, and she struggled with her attache case to get the list out.

This list, she said, was given to her by Stans' aides Nov. 29, 1972, for possible names to invite to two state dinners and two stag dinners to be given at the White House.

This list, she said, contained the names of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vesco. The name was circled and was accompanied

by a question mark, she said, but added she did not know why.

Just two days earlier, on Nov. 27, 1972, the SEC had filed a civil suit against Vesco, 20 other individuals and 21 companies charging massive looting of companies by Vesco and others.

This is the suit in which Mitchell and Stans are accused of interfering.

The second list, Barker said, included three names listed as I-A priorities — which Miss Woods said meant they were entitled to "preferred status."

Those three were W. Clement Stone (the Chicago insurance man who gave \$2 million to the campaign), Richard Mellon Scaife (who gave \$1 million) and Jack Mulcahy (the largest stockholder in Pfizer Chemical, who reportedly gave more than \$1 million over several years).

Miss Woods also said that "Mr. Vesco and not Mrs. probably would have been included in the March 7 stag."

Fleming took Miss Woods through a number of other contributors on the list, including the four Rockefeller brothers, and Jack Dreyfus of the Dreyfus Fund, then asked:

"Is there any question in your mind, Miss Woods, that this is a list of the President's major contributors?"

"There is no question at all," she said.

Earlier, Hugh W. Sloan Jr., treasurer of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, concluded testimony that began Friday.

Although Sloan was considered a key government witness to the charge that Stans ordered records of Vesco's contribution destroyed to keep it secret, Sloan's testimony was not that clear.

Instead, he testified he destroyed his records of the \$200,000 that Stans had given him and had told him to record "in the name of John Mitchell" after discussing the matter with Herbert Kalmbach, President Nixon's lawyer.

"Stans never told me to de-

stroy it, but he gave me instructions that there was no way of carrying out without destroying them," Sloan said.

Sloan, in response to a question from Fleming, said that he had discussed the matter of the \$200,000 with Stans since being questioned by prosecutors here about the matter and that his version differed from Stans' in only one respect.

The difference, he said, was that Stans' recollection was that the cash was in a black briefcase and his was that it was in a bank bag.

Sloan also did not help one of the government's perjury charges against Stans—which alleges that Stans lied about ever telling contributors to give before the April 7 cutoff date for secret donations.

Instead, Sloan said, he sat in during parts of a number of meetings that Stans held with contributors and could not re-



ROBERT L. VESCO



ROSE MARY WOODS

... his name absent from list, she testifies

call any instance where Stans urged, nor could he remember Stans specifying any preference as to whether cash, checks or securities should be given.

Today's final witness was

Robert L. Higgins of the General Accounting Office's Department of Federal Elections, who testified that reports filed on post April 7 donations never mentioned the name of Robert L. Vesco.