Cook Admits 5 More Lies Relating to Vesco Inquiry

By MARTIN ARNOLD

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the Mitchell-Stans trial that he reer in government. had lied under oath on three had lied under oath on three occasions to the grand jury second day on the witness that investigated this case and stand, he testified under direct

Maurice H. Stans and also to his mind and deciding to tell protect the reputation of the the truth. He also told of many Securities and Exchange Com- meetings and conversations

Mr. Cook was accused by de-fense attorneys of having also who has fled the country. lied in the White House to Mr. Cook's testimony Thurs-Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., day was the first hard testi-President's special counsel.

he listened to not so veiled

George Bradford Cook, one young man who had subtly of the Government's chief witnesses, admitted yesterday at into helping him further his ca-

twice to Congressional committees. examination by the Government that he lied only twice to He did it, he said, to protect the grand jury before changing mission, which he headed at the time. with Mr. Stans about the S.E.C.'s investigation of Robert cross-examination, L. Vesco, a financier, who was

President Nixon's chief of staff, mony of the trial to really tie and to Leonard Garment, the Mr. Stans in with the alleged crimes in this case. Mr. Stans, For Mr. Cook it was a day former Secretary of Commerce, in which he underwent wither and John N. Mitchell, former ing cross-examination. He heard Attorney General, are accused himself depicted over and over of perjury, obstruction of jusagain as a liar, and was forced tice and conspiracy for allegedto admit that this was so. And ly attempting to impede an

hints that he was an ambitious Continued on Page 14, Column 2

S.E.C. investigation of Mr. Vesco in return for a secret \$200 --000 cash contribution to Presi- irony: dent Nixon's re-election campaign.

Perjury About Talks

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Mr. Cook's perjury consisted of swearing to the grand jury and to the Congressional committees, among other things, that he had never discussed the S.E.C. investigation of Mr. Vesco with Mr. Stans until after the commission filed a civil fraud suit against the financier on Nov. 27, 1972.

If Mr. Cook had not discussed the investigation with Mr. Stans before that date, then it would be nearly impossible for the Government to convict Mr. Stans of some of the charges against him.

Yesterday Mr. Cook did not recant his testimony of the preceding day According to the charges to the charges the convent of the charges against him.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 character and, therefore, his credilibility, an exercise that produced the following almost textbook example of courtroom

First, the defense wanted to show that in general Mr. Cook told lies when he testified. To

told lies when he testified. To do this, they got him to admit that he had lied before the grand jurv and Congress.

However, in doing so, the defense was really trying to uphold Mr. Cook's initial testimony—the testimony he nover a says he lied about — that, among other things, he had never discussed the Vesco case with Mr. Stans before the formal complaint was filed by the S.E.C. S.E.C.

Move by Prosecution

The other side of the irony is, of course, that the defense wanted to make it appear that Yesterday Mr. Cook did not now, during this trial, is the recant his testimony of the preceding day. Accordingly, the defense set about assailing his his testimony that he is finally

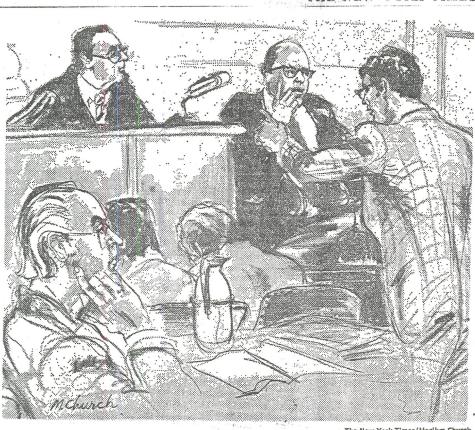
telling the truth now, the de-fense had to make the point that if he lied previously, how could he be believed now?

To avoid this trap, and to the wittry to "rehabilitate" ness, John R. Wing, the chief prosecutor, over strenuous defense objections, was finally allowed by Judge Lee P. Gagliardi to ask Mr. Cook why he had lied to the grand jury and to Congress.

This came after Mr. Cook had literally shouted to Peter Fleming Jr., Mr. Mitchell's law-yer, "but I'm not lying now."
To Mr. Wing the witness later said he had lied, "because

of my feelings for Mr. Stans" and "because I did not want to bring dishonor or discredit to the S.E.C., as to the fact that I had these conversations with Mr. Stans." The harshest attack, however,

on Mr. Cook came during the cross-examination conducted by Walter J. Bonner, Mr. Stans lawyer.



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Edward J. Bonner, lawyer for Maurice H. Stans, left foreground, cross-examining George Bradford Cook, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, at the Mitchell-Stans trial. Judge Lee P. Gagliardi is at the upper left.