

U.S. Agents Linked to Vesco in Bugging Search

WASHINGTON, July 22 (AP) —Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive financier, paid \$3,000 to have Federal drug agents search his home and offices for hidden electronic bugging devices, a Senate subcommittee was told today.

Thomas P. Richardson, head of a Los Angeles brokerage firm, testified that he arranged for the search in June, 1972, and that Mr. Vesco later paid him \$3,000 in gambling chips at a Bahamian casino.

Mr. Vesco is under indictment on charges growing out of a secret \$200,000 cash contribution that he made to President Nixon's re-election campaign in an alleged effort to influence an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Testifying under oath, Mr. Richardson said that he had suggested that Mr. Vesco have his New Jersey quarters checked for possible bugs after Mr. Vesco complained that private information was being disclosed from his corporation offices.

Mr. Richardson said that he then arranged for the search with John L. Kelly, who was then deputy director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, now employed by the Government. Mr. Kelly, he said, but declined to testify about their role in the affair. None of the three former drug agents appeared before the subcommittee investigators. The three had found no bugging devices, according to subcommittee investigators. Messrs. Borquez and Saunders told Mr. Vesco that they had found no bugging devices, according to subcommittee investigators.



Associated Press

Thomas P. Richardson, at Senate hearing, tells of hiring Federal agents to check the home of Robert L. Vesco to determine whether it had been bugged.

permanent investigations subcommittee, told reporters that his staff was investigating several "hot leads" regarding "illegal activity" involving a jet owned by Mr. Richardson's firm.

Asked if the activity involved Mr. Vesco and could lead to his extradition from Costa Rica, Senator Jackson replied, "No comment."

Mr. Richardson's testimony came as Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, who is chairman of the

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