## Senate Probe

# Gun Link to Financier Vesco

**Washington**

Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem-Wash.,) said yesterday that Senate investigators believe rifles and shotguns have been smuggled to Robert Vesco, the fugitive financier now living in Costa Rica, by Vesco associates in Los Angeles.

Jackson said the Senate permanent subcommittee on investigations will examine the evidence tomorrow.

Law enforcement authorities tracked down an airplane believed to have been used to transport the weapons to Vesco.

He said the plane, a Lear jet, is owned by Thomas P. Richardson, Los Angeles stockbroker and Vesco associate, who has told the subcommittee he arranged for two federal narcotics agents to search Vesco's home in New Jersey in June, 1972, for hidden bugging devices.

Jackson said Richardson, the pilot of the plane "and personnel who loaded the guns on the plane" have been called before the subcommittee.

Investigators believe "automatic or semi-automatic rifles and shotguns were smuggled out of Los Angeles on April 19, 1974 and flown to Robert Vesco," Jackson said.

"Information turned up by the subcommittee investigators indicates that they (the guns) were purchased by Richardson and transported on his plane," Jackson added.

Jackson said the hearing is part of the subcommittee's "continuing inquiry into allegations of criminal conduct of Robert Vesco as it impacts on the enforcement responsibilities of government agencies."

"In extensive executive sessions we heard allegations that after the Vesco name was raised in a huge drug case, the drug enforcement administration took steps which, for all intents and purposes, killed the case," Jackson said.

Jackson said the subcommittee wants to "view in totality the treatment of Robert Vesco by the executive branch agencies."

Vesco is under federal indictment in connection with a secret $200,000 contribution he made to the 1972 Nixon presidential campaign, allegedly in an attempt to influence a federal investigation of stock fraud charges against Vesco.

*United Press*