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Vesco Answers His Critics

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec. 5. (UPI)—Fugitive financier Robert Vesco denied any wrong-doing in a surprise, late night television appearance here yesterday, and promised critics who want him deported that he will not use his millions to buy their silence.

The former head of the Swiss-based Investors Overseas Services mutual funds firm gave no indication that he would voluntarily end his self-imposed exile here, despite a "Vesco go home" campaign launched by a citizens' group that includes several Cabinet ministers, the vice rector of the University of Costa Rica, a former president and three former vice presidents.

Vesco claimed on television that he had "never been tried or condemned for any criminal offense in any country"

In Washington, a Securities and Exchange Commission spokesman disputed Vesco's claim, saying that a federal district court in New York had enjoined Vesco against "further violations of the anti-fraud statutes," according to AP.

The United States tried last year to get Vesco extradited on charges that he contributed \$250,000 illegally to former President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

Until the television appearance, Vesco had maintained silence since coming here two and a half years ago. His appearance was apparently in answer to the citizens' group petition, submitted last week to President Daniel Oduber, which asked for Vesco's expulsion.