

Defense Ends Case in

Associated Press

NEW YORK, April 19—The defense in the Mitchell-Stans case rested today after former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and the government prosecutor traded angry charges of lying over testimony about a \$200,000 Republican campaign contribution.

A few minutes after the shouting died, Stans, looking pale and tired, was excused from the witness stand. The defense had taken 10 days to present its case in the criminal conspiracy trial of Stans and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell that stems from a secret cash contribution to President Nixon's 1972

campaign by financier Robert L. Vesco.

"Haven't you testified falsely under oath for the last two days?" demanded Assistant U.S. Attorney John Wing as he wound up a vigorous sweeping cross-examination of Stans.

"That's a lie, Mr. Wing, and you know it," shot back Stans angrily.

"Isn't it a fact that you did everything you could throughout 1972 to conceal Vesco's contribution?" Wing went on.

"No, absolutely not," Stans responded.

Stans and Mitchell are charged with conspiring to obstruct justice and with per-

jury. They are accused of attempting to derail a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco in return for Vesco's \$200,000 contribution.

"Didn't you do everything you could to conceal that contribution from everybody?" Wing persisted.

"No, I followed a policy of need to know, and those who needed to know I told," said Stans.

During redirect examination by his attorney, Walter Bonner, Stans was asked if he had told the jury the truth.

"I haven't told the truth all the way," said Stans.

Mitchell-Stans Trial

"On your oath?" asked Bonner.

"On my oath, Mr. Bonner," Stans replied.

Stans, under questioning at another point by his lawyer, testified again about his state of mind during the SEC investigation of Vesco and the subsequent grand jury probe in which Stans was involved.

"My mind," Stans said, referring to his wife and her near-fatal illness, "was on her and her problems. The events of the month of November are a total haze to me."

At the end of Stans' appearance, the trial recessed in late afternoon. Rebuttal witnesses for the government are sched-

uled to testify when the trial resumes at 9 a.m. Monday.

[As to one of those rebuttal witnesses, U.S. District Court Judge Lee P. Gagliardi rejected a motion by attorneys for The Washington Post to quash a government subpoena for Post staff writer Sally Quinn to testify in the case.]

Earlier, when questioned by Bonner, Stans expanded on his need-to-know policy.

"It meant restricted access to information except for anyone with a need to know. If someone had a need to know, we would tell them."

The need-to-know discussion was in reference to Stans' claim that he had pledged ano-

nymity to Vesco as a contributor at the financier's request. Stans said he was merely carrying out that pledge.

Stans' contention that he never sought the revamping of an SEC fraud complaint against Vesco came under strong attack Friday.

"Lord, I can't recall, Mr. Wing," Stans said wearily at one point in Wing's cross-examination.

Under redirect examination by his attorney, Walter Bonner, Stans recounted the extreme emotional stress he felt during the fall of 1972 and during his accounts before the federal grand jury due to the critical illness of his wife