

WXPost

Stans Denies He Did Anything to Help Vesco

NEW YORK, April 18 (UPI)

—Former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans said today he listed a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the 1972 Nixon campaign under John N. Mitchell's initials because the press "was bedeviling" his finance committee at the time.

Stans said the privacy of major contributors "had become an obsession with me," but he admitted he didn't tell former Attorney General Mitchell, his co-defendant in their federal conspiracy trial, until almost a year later.

Stans and Mitchell are accused of conspiring, obstructing justice and lying under oath in an alleged attempt to impede a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of financial wheeler-dealer Robert L. Vesco in return for the \$200,000 contribution.

"Wouldn't you think a contribution of that size would attract a hell of a lot more attention under John Mitchell's name than under Vesco's name?" prosecutor John R. Wing asked.

Stans replied: "If I were in a conspiracy, the last thing I would do would be to list it under the name of a fellow conspirator."

Earlier, Stans testified that See MITCHELL, A11, Col. 1

MITCHELL, From A1

"on my oath, I never did anything to help Robert Vesco in any way." He then asked unsuccessfully for a mistrial on grounds that a Watergate committee was in the courtroom.

Stans' attorney, Walter J. Bonner, made the mistrial motion on grounds that "a member of the Watergate committee is sitting here" and that Watergate-related questions were being deliberately asked under cross-examination to influence the jury.

U.S. District Court Judge Lee P. Gagliardi said, "Your point is timely taken," but the motion was denied.

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Rayhill later said the man in question was a member of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's staff but did not identify him further.

Testifying under direct examination, Stans told the nine-man, three-woman jury in a calm, emphatic voice: "On my

oath, I never did anything to help Robert Vesco."

Stans also flatly denied that he had conspired with Mitchell to impede a federal investigation of Vesco's financial contribution to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

On cross-examination, Wing questioned Stans about a so-called \$350,000 "cash-in-hand fund," which included the Vesco contribution that was deposited in a bank in 1972.

Without actually saying so, the inference was that the money had been deposited to cover the \$350,000 withdrawn earlier that year by then-White House aide H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, for a so-called "polling fund."

Allegations in the Watergate investigation suggested that the money withdrawn by Haldeman was used as hush money in the Watergate cover-up. When Stans was asked about the identical amounts, he replied that he thought they were "purely coincidental."

Stans said that his treasurer, Hugh Sloan, had set up the \$350,000 fund and he had nothing to do with it.

The 66-year-old former accountant and self-made millionaire who stepped down as Nixon Commerce Secretary to head the campaign fund drive, also denied that he had lied to the grand jury. One of the charges against Stans and Mitchell is lying to the grand jury.

Stans said he had given the grand jury "the facts as I then recalled them" apparently because of a discrepancy between what he told the grand jury and his testimony Wednesday.

Post Seeks to Block Sally Quinn Subpoena

Special to The Washington Post

NEW YORK, April 18—The judge in the Mitchell-Stans conspiracy trial will rule Friday on a motion to throw out a government subpoena for Washington Post staff writer Sally Quinn to testify in the case.

The subpoena, which was served Wednesday, seeks testimony from Miss Quinn "concerning the presence of one of the defendants... at a political gathering which at least several hundred persons also attended," according to an affidavit, filed with the motion to quash the subpoena,

17 April 1974

by Washington Post attorney Richard M. Cooper of the firm of Williams, Connolly & Califano.

The Post challenged the subpoena on the basis of Justice Department regulations limiting subpoenas of news media personnel and, on the basis of New York's newsman's shield law.

The subpoena for Miss Quinn had directed her to appear today in the trial where former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell are charged with conspiracy and lying to a grand jury.

U.S. District Court Judge Lee P. Gagliardi heard arguments today on the motion to quash and took the motion under advisement until Friday.

The Justice Department regulation on which The Post's motion was based requires that "the government should have unsuccessfully attempted to obtain the information from alternative nonmedia sources."

Cooper's affidavit, in addition to noting that several hundred others attended the function, said the prosecution had already called one witness who was there who could identify others in attendance.

Miss Quinn attended the "political gathering in her capacity as a reporter... in order to prepare a news report concerning it," the affidavit added.

New York's newsman's shield law prohibits a journalist from being held in contempt of court for refusing to disclose "any news or the source of... news" gathered on.