

**Merry-Go-Round**

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**Financial Fugitive****Jack Anderson**

**T**HE U.S. government is making a last-ditch attempt to nab that elusive financial fugitive, Robert L. Vesco, before he escapes forever.

The Carter Administration is actively considering another try at extraditing Vesco from his palatial villa in Costa Rica, according to government sources. But time is running out. Confidential State Department cables warn that Vesco will be eligible for Costa Rican citizenship July 1, thus effectively making him immune to extradition.

In a confidential dispatch last September, then U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman reported that the Costa Ricans were becoming embarrassed by Vesco. President Daniel Oduber, the cable noted, now feels "that he can act against Vesco without alienating former President Jose Figueres." Oduber also wants to "deflate the corruption issue" and put an end to "Costa Rican disgust with the image Vesco brings to their country."

Concluded the cable: "If we are ever to convince the Costa Ricans that we have been serious about the Vesco case, we must be prepared to move on short notice with a well prepared extradition request."

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**WAR COLLEGE** — A private military think tank, financed by defense contractors and oil companies, is

being built on federal land at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

The conservative Civilian Military Institute bills itself as an open forum for the military and society. But it enjoys a cozy relationship with the Air Force Academy, which will lease the group part of its new multimillion-dollar visitors center.

The institute is being funded by defense contractors such as Rockwell International, which kicked in \$250,000. Other sugar daddies include beer magnate William Coors, General Electric, Texaco, Standard Oil of Indiana, the Midwest Oil Foundation, and retired oil tycoon Arthur Johnson, who contributed \$400,000.

The trustees of the supposedly private institute include General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and six top brass hats from the Air Force, Army and Navy. Civilian members include Air Force Academy president William Tutt, Pan Am chairman William Sewell, and former Secretary of State Dean Rusk. At a recent symposium, "Everyone there was a high-ranking admiral or general or a retired military official," said one participant.

Rusk sees no problem with money coming from Pentagon contractors as long as the military men don't solicit them. As for building it on federal land, Rusk said: "It's not a problem unless people like you make it one."