

Grain Executive

Tells of Tipoff

Washington

A Continental Grain Corp. executive told senators yesterday that he tipped off the Agriculture Department three days before his company signed a deal to sell 7 million tons of grain to the Soviet Union in early July, 1972.

After the testimony by Bernard Steinweg, Continental's senior vice president, Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem-Wash.) produced sworn affidavits by executives of two other grain companies saying they told high department officials July 7, 1972, that the Russians wanted to buy major quantities of American grain.

"It's an outrage, if this testimony is correct, that

Agriculture was telling the American public they knew nothing about this deal," said Jackson, chairman of the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee.

There have been persistent charges that the department kept advance information about the \$1.1 billion grain deal secret from American farmers, who sold their grain while market prices were low. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz has insisted that nobody in his department knew the first week in July how much the Russians would buy from the U.S.

A Butz spokesman said yesterday the secretary would have no comment until he testifies before the subcommittee on Monday.

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