

Contempt Hearing For Vesco

New York

The government sought Monday to have financier Robert L. Vesco cited for criminal contempt for failing to appear before a grand jury here last Wednesday.

In Manhattan federal court, where a judge set a hearing for next Thursday on the contempt application, it was disclosed that a 6-foot tall federal prosecutor hailed Vesco April 15 in Nassau, the Bahamas, but Vesco fled.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John A. Lowe, in an affidavit, related that he hit Vesco in the back with an envelope containing a copy of a court order for the grand jury appearance, and a copy of the grand jury subpoena, issued April 13.

Vesco is a top defendant in a civil law suit by the Securities and Exchange Commission against 42 individuals and firms, alleging that Vesco's control of four big overseas mutual funds enabled Vesco and associates to liquidate \$224 million securities from the funds, putting \$125 million into various interests of Vesco and others.

Judge Edmund L. Palmieri ordered the Thursday hearing after being told about the attempt April 15 by Lowe to serve the papers at a house in Nassau.

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