

# Vesco Said to Find Case Weak Unless He Testifies

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Robert L. Vesco, the financier indicted Thursday on charges arising from his \$200,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign, believes that the case against his co-defendants, John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, is perilously weak unless he testifies against them, according to sources close to the case.

Mr. Vesco, who remains out of the country despite a bench warrant for his arrest, continues to seek total immunity and a special prosecutor before he will testify against Mr. Mitchell, the former Attorney General, and Mr. Stans, the former Secretary of Commerce, the sources said.

## Bases of Belief

Mr. Vesco feels that without his testimony the case against his co-defendants will probably fail, unless they committed perjury.

The reason, he has said, is that they were not in office when they allegedly got in touch with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Mr. Vesco's behalf.

Mr. Vesco is also said to believe that such contacts are common political practice. He plans to subpoena S.E.C. records to find out how many Congressmen and other public officials have made calls to the agency on behalf of their constituents & according to sources close to the case.

In another development, United States Attorney Whitney North Seymour Jr. said yesterday that the investigation that led to Thursday's indictments had been conducted "under conditions of tight security." But Mr. Seymour went on to say that "any inference that this was done because of a lack of confidence in the integrity of other agencies would be extremely unfair."

Mr. Seymour's statement was in response to a report in The New York Post that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies had been "excluded" from his office's inquiry to prevent "leaks."

"Senior officials in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice in Washington," Mr. Seymour's statement said, "were kept informed on the general scope and progress of the investigation from the start."

## Charges Listed

The indictment names Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Stans, Mr. Vesco and Harry L. Sears, former majority leader of the New Jersey Senate, as defendants. All are charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States and to obstruct justice by "deceit, craft, trickery and dishonest means." In addition, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans are accused of perjury before the grand jury.