

SFC
5-22-73

Former SEC Chairman Testifies

Washington

G. Bradford Cook, who recently quit as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission under fire in the Robert L. Vesco case, testified secretly and under oath before a congressional subcommittee for 2½ hours yesterday.

President Nixon's former counsel, John W. Dean III, is being called to testify behind closed doors tomorrow in the subcommittee's related probe of SEC's handling of an International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. case.

"We're not witch-hunting," said Representative Harley O. Staggers (Dem-W. Va.), chairman of the House Commerce Committee and its investigation subcommittee. He said Dean's appearance probably won't get into the Watergate case "unless this leads to it — that would be the only way."

After the session with Cook, Staggers refused to give newsmen details about the testimony but he called the ex-SEC chairman a very cooperative witness. Staggers said the questions involved both the Vesco and the ITT cases.

"We don't want to interfere with the court cases at all," Staggers said. "We want to complete our hearings . . . We want to know whether these gentlemen are doing their work, whether they've lied to us or whether they've told the truth . . ."

Congressional sources said Dean, who was fired from the White House post, was being subpoenaed for questioning about contacts with then-SEC Chairman William J. Casey shortly before SEC decided to send 34 boxes of secret ITT papers to the Justice Department instead of making them available to Congress last year.

Associated Press