

# Vesco Wants Cox Assurance Of Impartiality

By Philip Greer

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NEW YORK, May 23—Fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco said he will not return to the United States until he is assured of "absolute impartiality" by Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Vesco, target of two warrants issued in connection with his alleged efforts to obstruct a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation, also said in an interview televised by the Columbia Broadcasting System that he "would not want to be exposed to the additional type of harassing and litigation that we've had."

In an interview with the National Broadcasting Company, Vesco said he has "a sworn statement on the Watergate case which is being held in safekeeping."

Shortly after Vesco made his appearance, an aide charged that a secret \$200,000 cash payment to President Nixon's re-election campaign last spring was "extortion," and accused former White House counsel John W. Dean III and SEC officials of a "fraudulent conspiracy." The accusation was termed "outrageous" by the attorney who represented Vesco in the SEC's \$224 million fraud suit here.

Two weeks ago, a grand jury here indicted Vesco, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and New Jersey Republican leader Harry L. Sears on charges of obstructing the SEC investigation which led to the suit. Mitchell and Stans were also accused of lying to the grand jury about their efforts to sidetrack the investigation in return for the secret campaign contribution.

Mitchell, Stans and Sears have all pleaded innocent to the charges. Vesco did not appear for the arraignment on Monday and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. Another warrant was issued when he failed to appear before the grand jury. In Geneva, Switzerland, a warrant was issued for Vesco, along with James Roosevelt, son of the late president, and other officials of IOS, Ltd., the financial complex Vesco took over in 1970.

Vesco made his demands in San Jose, Costa Rica, one of the two bases of his financial operations. The other is in Nassau, the Bahama Islands. Vesco, whose family lives in Boonton, N.J., has attempted to renounce his American citizen in San Jose, but the State Department said he did not follow proper procedures.

At about the same time Vesco was being interviewed, Costa Rican president Jose Figueres made a radio and TV address in which he defended his relationships with the financier. Figueres, founder of a company in which Vesco has invested more than \$2 million, said \$436,000 which funneled through his New York bank account from Vesco-controlled banks was used for various public, semi-public and legitimate business transactions in Costa Rica.

A member of the Costa Rican assembly, Dr. Jaime Gutierrez, said in Portland Ore., however, that Vesco will be extradited from Costa Rica if the United States makes a request. John R. Wing, the assistant U.S. Attorney in charge of

the Vesco investigation here, said on Monday that the question of extradition has not yet been closely studied.

While Vesco was laying down his conditions, Norman P. LaBlanc, chairman of several Vesco-dominated companies said that "full disclosure of the circumstances that forced the resignation of G. Bradford Cook, chairman of the SEC, will startle the world in what will be known as the biggest scandal that ever rocked a U.S. government agency and destroy investor confidence in U.S. securities markets throughout the world."

LaBlanc charged that SEC officials withheld "extensive documentation that proves facts from the U.S. Senate, the New York grand jury and the federal court hearing the civil case." He charged Dean, Cook, former SEC chairman William J. Casey and two staff officials, Irving Pollack and Stanley Sporkin, with "fraudulent conspiracy to obstruct justice."

Pollack, director of the SEC's division of enforcement, called the statement "the worst kind of Nazi propaganda technique . . . spread a lie so great that to even deny it would be to dignify it."

Sporkin, deputy SEC enforcement director, said "the facts will show that we have taken every action and step to bring wrongdoers to justice and to preserve the assets of fund shareholders throughout the world. There was no question of obstruction of justice or extortion."

Soon after LeBlanc made his statement, Arthur Linden, chief of the Vesco defense forces in the SEC suit, said, "I find it outrageous for a man who defaulted in the SEC suit to accuse the staff of being less than zealous when day after day they've shown their combativeness in court." LeBlanc, a Canadian citizen and one of 21 individual defendants in the suit, ignored the action on the ground that the U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over his activities. In addition, 21 corporations allegedly controlled by Vesco are defendants in the suit, which ended its trial phase last Friday. A warrant for LeBlanc's arrest has been issued in Montreal, after charges including fraud were filed in connection with a \$107 million deposit in the Bank of Montreal.

## MAY 24 1973 Vesco's 'Alma Mater' Has No Record of Him

DETROIT, May 23 (UPI)—Officials at Wayne State University here were wondering today where Robert Vesco, accused in a financial conspiracy, got his education.

Vesco claims to hold a degree in mechanical engineering from Wayne State. But university officials say extensive checks through the memories of people and computers have failed to come up with anyone named Vesco.

"We're not anxious to disclaim millionaires as alumni," said university spokesman Robert MacDonald, "but we've checked several times through our alumni files, central records, people and records at the College of Engineering, and there's no sign of Vesco."