

By E. W. KENWORTHY
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WASHINGTON, May 24 — John W. Dean 3d was questioned behind closed doors for more than three hours today by the House Commerce investigation subcommittee on two cases involving the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The subcommittee was seeking to find out what the dismissed White House counsel knew about the Vesco case and also about the controversial transfer of files of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation from the S.E.C. to the Justice Department just before last year's Presidential election.

After the secret session Representative Harley O. Staggers, chairman of both the full committee and the subcommittee, told reporters that Mr. Dean had been "very helpful," and "very frank."

Beyond that, Mr. Staggers, a West Virginia Democrat, would say only that "we asked him every question under the sun about the transfer of those documents." What the answers were, Mr. Staggers declined to say, and Mr. Dean would say only that he respected the rules governing executive sessions of Congressional committees.

On May 10, a Federal grand jury in New York indicted John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General, Maurice H. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, and Robert L. Vesco, New Jersey financier, on charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

A few hours after Mr. Vesco

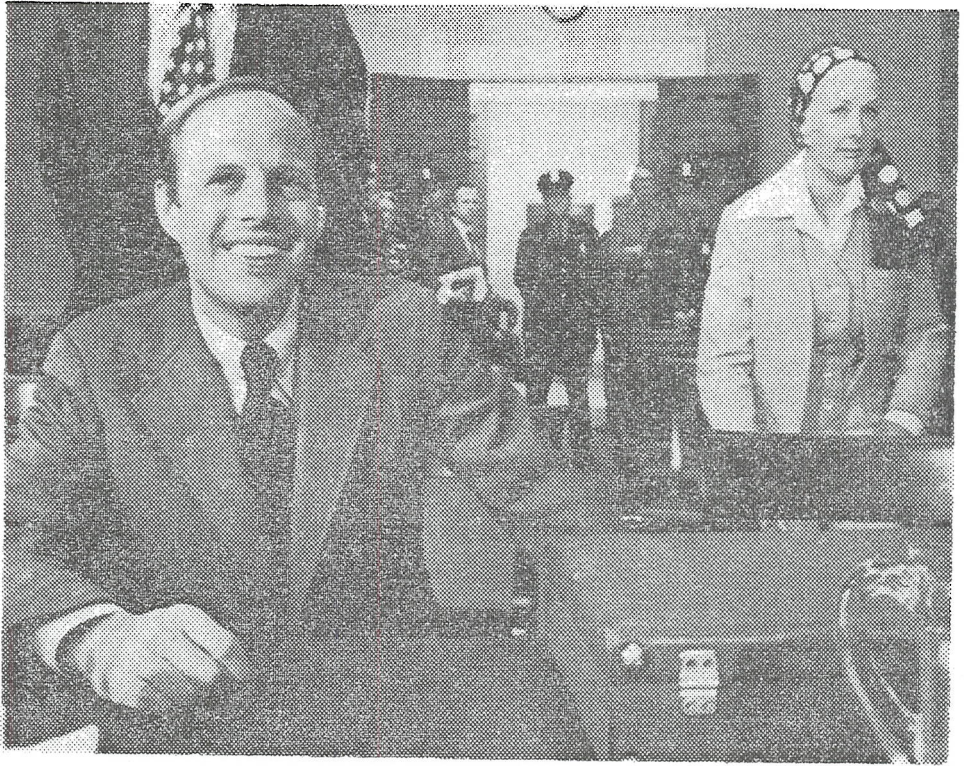
sent a \$200,000 secret campaign contribution to Mr. Stans, chief fund-raiser for the Nixon campaign, Mr. Mitchell, according to the indictment, arranged for William J. Casey, former S.E.C. chairman, to meet with Mr. Vesco's lawyers to discuss an S.E.C. fraud investigation of Mr. Vesco.

The grand jury also said that Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Dean to

urge Mr. Casey to delay issuance of subpoenas in the Vesco case.

Last Oct. 3, Mr. Casey sought Mr. Dean's advice on removing I.T.T. files to the Justice Department so that the Staggers committee could not subpoena them. The following day the commission decided to remove them after a 10-minute meeting.

Today, Mr. Staggers said that Mr. Casey who testified last Dec. 14, would be recalled, and also that Ralph W. Erickson, former Assistant Attorney General, would also be called. Mr. Casey has said that Mr. Erickson would also be called. Mr. Casey has said that Mr. Erickson initiated the transfer; Mr. Erickson has said Mr. Casey initiated it.



Associated Press

John W. Dean 3d, former White House counsel, before testifying yesterday. Mrs. Dean accompanied him.