

Vesco Hints He Agrees With Figueres

By RICHARD SEVERO

Special to The New York Times

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 30—Robert L. Vesco, the financier under Federal indictment in the United States, issued a statement today in which he essentially dissociated himself from remarks made Sunday by his friend and former business associate, Norman P. LeBlanc.

Mr. Vesco's statement is believed to indicate President José Figueres's displeasure at some of the language used by Mr. LeBlanc in his sharp attack on the United States, a country Mr. Figueres knows well and in which he has many friends.

The President is known to be weary of the controversy that has beset this small nation in recent weeks, and reliable sources here believe Mr. LeBlanc's remarks strained the Figueres-Vesco relationship, which began when President Figueres desperately sought Mr. Vesco's aid last year for a financially troubled company he owns.

Although there is no sign of a permanent rupture with Mr. Vesco, it is believed here that Mr. Figueres would prefer more restrained language from some of Mr. Vesco's friends and associates, who are charging harassment by United States spies.

Possible Clash of Views

Indeed, Mr. Figueres said publicly yesterday that he had heard of espionage activities here "with surprise" and said he believed the American officials in Costa Rica were obeying its laws. Those who said otherwise, he added, were indulging in "fantasies." He did not directly mention Mr. LeBlanc in his remarks.

Mr. Vesco's statement of today was issued by one of his aides here, Raul Espinosa. The statement was brief:

"I have read numerous reports concerning statements made by Norman P. LeBlanc. Although Mr. LeBlanc is a per-

sonal friend and is deeply concerned about the pending controversies, I feel it's necessary to state that his opinions are not necessarily what my views are on this situation."

There was no elaboration.

Mr. LeBlanc is a Canadian who was associated with Mr. Vesco in Investors Overseas Services, a Geneva-based, transnational mutual fund. He and Mr. Vesco and 39 other persons are charged with defrauding that company's stockholders of \$224-million.

In addition, Mr. Vesco has been accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of trying to prevent a commission investigation of his affairs by giving \$200,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign, a donation not properly recorded and eventually returned to Mr. Vesco.

On Sunday night, Mr. LeBlanc held a news conference at a hotel here. He was accompanied by Mr. Espinosa.

Mr. LeBlanc charged that Peter Johnson, the chief political officer in the United States Embassy here, was in reality

an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Johnson was trying to "get rid" of Mr. Vesco and him, Mr. LeBlanc declared. He then used expletives to describe the S.E.C. and some of its personnel.

Mr. LeBlanc stumbled over many words and seemed to be highly agitated. He explained to reporters before the news conference ended that he had termites in his bedroom, that carpenters were ripping out his ceiling and that he found the process unnerving.

The accusations against Mr. Johnson angered the United States Embassy here, and United States Ambassador Viron Vaky spent two hours yesterday afternoon with President Figueres. Earlier, the embassy issued a strong denial of Mr. LeBlanc's assertions.

Meanwhile, reporters are waiting for Mr. Vesco to hold a news conference, although Mr. Espinosa has given no firm indication that Mr. Vesco will do so soon.

"I just don't know when it will be," Mr. Espinosa said today.

CARTOON IS REJECTED FOR 'GUILTY' COMMENT

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 30—

Gary Trudeau, author of the "Doonesbury" cartoon strip, has been "burned," as he puts it, by the Watergate scandal.

Yesterday, more than a dozen newspapers around the country, including The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times and The Boston Globe, refused to print his cartoon directed at former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

"Doonesbury," which is syndicated in more than 300 newspapers, was dropped by a number of them because it labeled Mr. Mitchell "guilty" in the Watergate case.

"Good news, kiddies," pro-

claimed Mark, the radio broadcaster in the "Doonesbury" strip yesterday. "Time for another exclusive WBBY 'Watergate profile.' Today's obituary—John Mitchell."

"It would be a disservice to Mr. Mitchell and his character to prejudice the man," the character said, "but everything known to date could lead one to conclude he's guilty? That's guilty? Guilty, guilty, guilty!"

Richard Smith, assistant to the editor, of the Los Angeles Times, said the newspaper did not print the cartoon, because it "in effect convicts John Mitchell."

Mr. Trudeau, 27 years old, dismissed the criticism. "My highest priority is entertainment," he said. "I wasn't saying John Mitchell was guilty. It was a parody on all the people who are over-reacting."