

Vesco Indicted On New Charge

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Fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco has been secretly indicted here on a charge of wire fraud in connection with a \$250,000 contribution last year to President Nixon's reelection campaign, it was learned yesterday.

The indictment, according to sources close to the case, was handed down last week. It is in addition to charges of obstructing justice on which Vesco was indicted May 10, along with former Attorney General John Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans and New Jersey politician Harry Sears. Mitchell and Stans were also accused of lying to the federal grand jury investigating the Vesco contribution.

The charge is the basis for an extradition proceeding currently pending in San Jose, Costa Rica. Vesco, who has made sizable investments in Costa Rica, fled the country on June 3 and is currently believed to be in Nassau, the Bahamas.

Reports from the Costa Rican capital said the request was based on a charge of "illegal use of the telegraph." None of the publicly announced charges against

Vesco include an accusation relating to use of the telegraph.

In the past, Vesco has claimed the \$250,000 campaign payment — of which \$200,000 was delivered secretly in \$100 bills last April 10 — was made with borrowed funds. It is not known whether the new charge indicates any further evidence of the source of the money.

According to government charges, Vesco authorized the transfer of \$250,000 from Bahamas Commonwealth Bank in Nassau, which he controls, to a branch of Barclay's Bank in lower Manhattan. The money was picked up in cash on April 6 and, according to sworn testimony, \$200,000 was delivered to Stans on April 10.

At the time, Vesco was under intensive investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which later charged him and 41 other defendants with swindling \$224 million from mutual funds operated by Investors Overseas Services Ltd.

An additional \$50,000 was contributed by check in October, 1972. The entire amount was returned to Vesco in January.

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