

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Job With Vesco Displeased Nixon Kin

By Jack Anderson

The President's nephew, Donald A. Nixon, blamed the President—whom he called the "great god in the White House"—for sending him to work in Europe for financier Robert Vesco.

Several weeks after young Donald arrived in Geneva, he wrote to a friend in California and complained about having to associate with Vesco.

"This place is beginning to get me down due to the people I have to work with," Donald wrote to John Meier, a former neighbor. "Gil Straub (a Vesco executive) is an ok guy, but this Vesco fella and I don't get it on.

"Oh well, I got myself into this by letting my parents and the great god in the White House pull wool over my eyelids..."

Later in the letter, Donald said, "I'll know where I fit in this organization in the next couple of weeks, that is, if I don't happen to kill Vesco first."

Although his father, F. Donald Nixon, once insisted to my

associate George Clifford that young Donald worked for International Controls in Geneva rather than Vesco's more shady Investors Overseas Services, Donald gave IOS as his return address. In a July, 1971, letter, Donald wrote:

"I believe this to be something which you and I and IOS will be able to handle in order to bring forth vast quantities of good old lettuce."

Donald went to join Vesco in Geneva in July, 1971. Previously, he had lived in the California mountains with what his father called "hippies." Tony Ulasewicz, a former New York policeman who was used by the White House for a number of varied assignments, was sent to the mountains to bring Donald back.

Donald's father also told Clifford that presidential aide John Ehrlichman had talked to young Donald at San Clemente for several hours about keeping his nose clean.

We recently reported that we have affidavits from people who swear they heard F. Don-

ald Nixon say he never became involved in business deals without the permission of his brother, the President. The White House denied any veto power over Donald's activities.

One of young Donald's letters, however, seems to agree with the affidavits.

In November, 1971, Donald wrote to Meier: "So far, I've met with some pretty interesting (sic) people and have hopes of doing business with them. One of them is an American citizen, but was born in Peking and has the OK from the WH for me to do business with him..." By "WH," Donald apparently meant the White House.

Meier, the recipient of the letters, once was a consultant to eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes. Meier is now being sued by Hughes, and is under indictment on tax charges. He insists, however, that both the Hughes suit and the tax case were motivated by his business dealings with Don Nixon and his son.

"Don told me that Ehrlichman was having my phones tap-

ped," Meier told us. "That was before the IRS began its audit of me."

In 1972, Meier was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator in New Mexico. During that campaign, there was a break-in at the office of Meier's campaign manager, Thomas Benavides in Albuquerque. Benavides, who was a leader in the New Mexico Democrats for Nixon movement during the presidential campaign, told us nothing was taken from his office except papers belonging to Meier.

The burglars, however, did not get Meier's papers on his relationship with the Donald Nixons.

Footnote: Vesco is now a fugitive in Costa Rica, where President Jose Figueres has refused to extradite him to stand trial in the United States. Former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, charged with Vesco, are awaiting trial in New York.

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