

AGENT DESCRIBES WHITE HOUSE LINK

**He Made '10 or 15' Calls
About Drug Case in Which
Vesco Was Mentioned**

By LINDA CHARLTON
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 —

An undercover agent has told Senate investigators that, despite White House denials, he made "perhaps 10 or 15" telephone calls to the White House last July in an effort to alert staffers there to the halting of a narcotics investigation after it led to Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive financier.

The agent, Frank Peroff, told the investigators for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations that he made the calls to the White House—and received perhaps half a dozen calls in return — during a four-day period near the end of July.

Mr. Peroff, whose previous statements have been met with a general denial of any White House knowledge of the allegations, has provided investigators with a list of those at the White House with whom he claims to have spoken.

Buzhardt Listed

Among the names reported to be on the list were those of a man named Peter Grant, identified by Mr. Peroff as a Secret Service agent, and of J. Fred Buzhardt, special counsel to the President.

Mr. Peroff said he referred to Mr. Buzhardt's secretary, and read him a 15-minute statement outlining his undercover involvement in the nar-

cotics-smuggling operation that had been planned to lead to the arrests by Federal agents of those involved.

The statement also allegedly detailed Mr. Peroff's fears that the plan was called off after he told Federal agents that he had heard Mr. Vesco mentioned as the man who was to finance the operation.

Mr. Vesco, who is under indictment on several Federal charges and is now fighting extradition to the United States from the Bahamas, issued a statement yesterday denying any involvement, direct or indirect, with drug-trafficking of any kind.

Questioned in Detail

Mr. Peroff has told the investigators that he spoke twice with Mr. Buzhardt. The undercover agent contends that he tried to read the same statement to Mr. Buzhardt, who he says interrupted him to say, "I've already read the statement." Then, according to Mr. Peroff, Mr. Buzhardt questioned him about the statement in detail.

Mr. Peroff has said that he

also spoke with persons at the White House whom he could identify only as a Mr. Phelps, Mr. Meyers and a Mr. Andrews or Andros.

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said that Mr. Buzhardt "absolutely" denied ever having spoken to Mr. Peroff.

Yesterday, after the first account of Mr. Peroff's alleged telephone calls to the White House was published, Mr. Warren issued a general statement denying any White House "knowledge of or involvement in the allegations and implications contained in this story."

Served as Informant

Mr. Peroff, whose previous undercover work had led to the arrests of eight drug smugglers and the seizure of quantities of heroin and counterfeit money, was involved in the heroin-smuggling operation as an informant for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

He has accused the drug

agency of withdrawing its support after he passed on to its agents the allegation from one of those involved in the scheme that Mr. Vesco was to supply the \$300,000 required.

After first trying unsuccessfully to reach Archibald Cox, then the special prosecutor, in the Watergate investigations, Mr. Peroff has said that he started calling the White House from the Hilton Inn at Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Investigators for the subcommittee, who are looking into Mr. Peroff's allegations, refused to comment today. But it is known that they have been able to validate Mr. Peroff's contention that he made and received more than a dozen telephone calls to and from the White House.