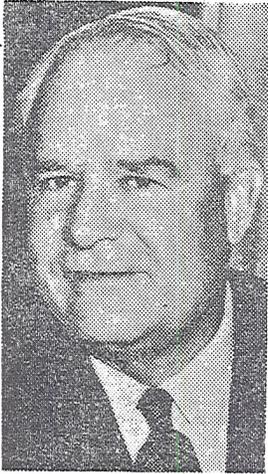


Pappas Back, Quizzed in Mitchell



CHESTERFIELD SMITH
... ABA chief criticized

By Seth Kantor
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International financier Thomas A. Pappas has quietly returned to this country from Greece and last week appeared before New York authorities who are handling the federal conspiracy and perjury case against former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and fugitive millionaire Robert L. Vesco.

Pappas, who was a fundraiser in Greece for the Finance Committee to re-elect the President, is also being asked to meet with Senate Watergate committee probers looking into foreign fund-raising

activities by the re-election committee. And aides to Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski are expected to question Pappas at length this week.

Pappas, 74, holds both American and Greek citizenships. He flew from Athens to New York in the past few days to undergo questioning after being faced with the threat of at least two subpoenas.

Federal investigators have been anxious to meet with him since last fall but Pappas put off the meetings more than once.

Pappas checked into a 35-floor suite in the Waldorf Towers and, accompanied by Boston attorney John M. Dou-

kas, met this past week with representatives of U.S. Attorney Paul J. Curran of New York, the federal prosecutor in the Mitchell-Stans trial that is scheduled to start Feb. 19.

A spokesman for Curran would neither confirm nor deny that Pappas met behind closed doors last Wednesday with members of a grand jury in the U.S. courthouse in Manhattan.

Pappas was a major fundraiser for President Nixon's re-election campaign. Early in 1972, he gave more than \$100,000 in his own name to the campaign. In addition, he raised funds in Europe and the United States for the re-election committee.

Case

Aides to Senate Watergate committee chief counsel Samuel Dash have been anxious to talk to Pappas concerning a charge by former presidential counsel John W. Dean III that Pappas may have been asked to supply support money to the convicted Watergate conspirators in exchange for "some favorable considerations from the government on some oil matters."

Pappas is prominent in the oil business in Greece, where he was born and has lived in recent years. He operates refineries and tankers, and is in partnership in Greece with Exxon International.

Reached by telephone in his New York hotel suite, Pappas refused to answer questions about his trip to the United States.

The U.S. attorney's office in New York will say little about what information Pappas might have that would bear directly on the upcoming trial in which Mitchell, Stans and Vesco are defendants.

The two former Cabinet officers are accused of agreeing to obstruct a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation into Vesco's business dealings in exchange for a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the Nixon re-election committee. Vesco has been evading U.S. authorities since his indictment in the case, operating out of the Bahamas and Costa Rica.

Pappas has maintained close ties to the military juntas that have ruled Greece since 1967, and also has ties with several key figures in the Nixon administration.