

# COOK SAYS STANS TOLD HIM HE LIED TO THE GRAND JURY

Ex-S.E.C. Chief Admits He  
Himself Also Lied Twice  
Before Changing Mind

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SUIT ON VESCO INVOLVED

Witness Testifies They Had  
Often Discussed Matter  
Before the Case Began  
NYTimes

By MARTIN ARNOLD

George Bradford Cook testified yesterday that Maurice H. Stans informed him at a meeting in the White House mess hall that he had lied to the grand jury investigating the Mitchell-Stans case.

And, in the most damaging testimony against Mr. Stans thus far in the 27 days of the trial, Mr. Cook went on to relate that he himself, while chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, had twice lied to the grand jury before he finally told Mr. Stans, "I'm going to tell it like it was."

Mr. Cook, who starts his third day of testimony today, has done for the Government with Mr. Stans what John W. Dean 3d did with John N. Mitchell—give testimony tying him directly to the criminal counts alleged. Before the Cook testimony the Government had presented relatively little evidence connecting Mr. Stans to the alleged crimes.

Account by Witness

The lying, according to the witness, consisted of swearing to the grand jury that they had never discussed an S.E.C. investigation of Robert L. Vesco until after the complaint had been filed.

Mr. Cook said that the meeting at the White House mess hall was on March 7, 1973, four days after he had been sworn in—at the age of 35—as the youngest chairman in the history of the S.E.C. He testified that previous to that date Mr. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, had told him, "I'll do what I can to see that you become chairman."

Two days before, Mr. Stans had testified before the grand

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jury. On March 7, according to Mr. Cook, they were seated in the White House mess. The scene developed this way, Mr. Cook testified:

"Well, we exchanged pleasantries again, and he [Stans] stated that he had appeared before the grand jury. He then looked at me and he said, 'Brad, let's have one of those conversations that doesn't take place.' He then proceeded to tell me what he had testified before the grand jury."

Two months later, on May 10, 1973, that grand jury was to indict Mr. Stans and Mr. Mitchell, former Attorney General, on charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and conspiracy.

Both men, who were leaders of the Nixon re-election campaign, were alleged to have impeded an S.E.C. investigation of Robert L. Vesco, a financier, in exchange for a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's campaign. Mr. Vesco, who was also indicted, has fled the country.

Mr. Cook continued his version of the alleged mess hall meeting with Mr. Stans. He said that Mr. Stans had informed him that he told the grand jury he had not discussed the Vesco case with Mr. Cook until after the S.E.C. filed a civil fraud charge against Mr. Vesco, which was on Nov. 27, 1972.

Stans Statement Alleged

"And he stated that he had not discussed the Vesco matter with me until after the complaint had been filed" was the way Mr. Cook described it.

On Wednesday, Mr. Cook testified that starting during a lull in a goose hunt in a Texas rice field, when he was crouched down with Mr. Stans, the two men had repeatedly discussed the Vesco case, and that these discussions took place for months before the S.E.C. case was filed on Nov. 27.

Mr. Cook went on to testify yesterday that Mr. Stans informed him that he had told the grand jury that he had met with Mr. Cook "to discuss a trip to Haiti which both he and myself had been invited to attend."

The witness continued: "I looked at Mr. Stans, or actually I looked into my coffee cup, and I said, 'Well,' and I kind of hesitated, and he said, 'Well, Brad, that's the way it happened, and there is no sense in getting everybody embarrassed here. There was nothing done wrong here. The gift [the Vesco contribution] was a legal gift. Your suit was brought, and all it would do is cause a great deal of embarrassment to everybody.'" "I said, 'Well, if that's the

way it is going to be, I guess that's the way it is going to be,' or words to that effect."

Accusation of Perjury

The indictment in this case accuses Mr. Stans of committing perjury when he denied to the grand jury that he had spoken to either Mr. Cook or Mr. Dean, then counsel to Mr. Nixon, about the Vesco matter before the S.E.C. complaint was filed on Nov. 27, 1972.

Mr. Cook then went on yesterday to tell of his own experiences before the grand jury. John R. Wing, the chief prosecutor, asked him if he had told the truth, "all the facts as you knew them on your first two appearances?"—which were on April 19 and on May 3, 1973. The defense immediately objected.

Judge Lee P. Gagliardi then asked the witness, "Mr. Cook, was the testimony that you gave in the grand jury on your first occasion the same as it was when you gave it on your second and third occasions?"

"No," replied Mr. Cook. When asked if he had told a Senate committee "all the facts as you knew them to be," the witness again replied, "no."

The fact that Mr. Cook had not told the truth at his second grand jury appearance was developed this way:

He testified that on the morning of May 7, 1973, the day he made his third grand jury appearance, he received a telephone call from Mr. Stans.

Resignation From S.E.C.

"Mr. Stans said that he thought he and I should get together on the Vesco situation, and I said that I didn't want to discuss it with him any further, and I said that if he insisted on discussing it, I was on my way to New York to appear before the grand jury and would have to tell the grand jury that I had discussed it [previously to Nov. 27, 1972] with him."

"He then made a statement to the effect, well, 'Nothing has been changed, is there?' or I think 'has there been a change?' and I said, 'Yes, for me there has been.'"

"He then said, 'That could be trouble. What do you mean?' and I said, 'Well, I'm going to tell it like it was.'"

On May 14, 1973, Mr. Cook was summoned back before a Senate committee, which demanded to know why he had not told them the truth originally. Several days after that appearance before the committee, he resigned as chairman of the S.E.C. Previously, he had been general counsel of the commission, in charge of its Vesco investigation, and had been head of another division in the agency.