

Question Eluded Vesco

New York

Fugitive financier Robert Vesco declined last night to say whether he ever discussed with President Nixon his secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the President's re-election campaign.

Vesco was asked the question by CBS' Walter Cronkite during a telephone interview with the financier in Costa Rica.

Vesco was indicted with former Attorney General John Mitchell and ex-Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans. Both men are on trial now for allegedly trying to influence a Securities and Exchange Commission inquiry into Vesco's finances in exchange for his contribution. Vesco fled before the trial and is now living in Costa Rica.

Asked by Cronkite if he had ever discussed the matter personally with Mr. Nixon, Vesco first said "Uh . . ." followed by a lengthy pause, then replied: "Let's go to the next question."

When Cronkite asked if that could be taken as a "no comment" answer, Vesco, smiling, replied:

"I didn't quite hear the question too clearly and I'm sure if you spoke it ten times, I still wouldn't hear it."

Associated Press
