

# The Argument for Stans

## New York

Using sarcasm and solemnity, evangelistic fervor and laughter, the lawyer for Maurice H. Stans summed up his defense yesterday in an oration to the jury that lasted nearly five hours.

It was a selective and emotional defense, with its thrust not so much to countering the testimony in this trial, but rather to creating for the jury the notion that it was preposterous to suppose that Stans — "that honorable man" — would commit a

crime.

The lawyer, Walter J. Bonner, depicted Stans as a man so accustomed to handling vast sums of money — "balancing \$66 billion of your money" when he was President Eisenhower's budget director — that it is incredible to think that he was impressed by a \$200,000 campaign contribution from Robert L. Vesco.

Bonner completed his summation in almost a bullying tone as he shouted at the jurors, "decide if you

can walk back in here and say to him: "Guilty." And then go back home and see if you can live with yourself and your God and say that that man is a liar and a perjurer."

"Can you call that man a perjurer?" Bonner said.

"Not before God nor man. Can you do that? He is not an obstructor of justice. He is not a conspirator. He is a good, decent and honorable American. I want you to bring in a verdict of not guilty, and I want you to

restore to him his good name."

Stans, the former secretary of commerce, and John N. Mitchell, former attorney general, are accused of attempting to impede a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco in return for a secret, \$200,000 cash contribution by Vesco to President Nixon's re-election campaign. Both former cabinet members were leaders of the campaign.

Summations for Mitchell and the prosecution are expected today, and the jury is expected to get the case tomorrow.

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