

NY Times APR 24 1974  
**STANS IS TERMED  
HONORABLE MAN**

**Defense Summation Terms  
It Preposterous to Think  
He Would Commit Crime**

By MARTIN ARNOLD

With 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 "that honorable man"—Mr. Stans—would commit a crime.

The lawyer, Walter J. Bonner, depicted Mr. 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, the financier. Mr. Bonner completed his

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summation, which had started at 2:30 P.M. at 7 P.M., in almost a buying 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?" Mr. 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."

Then, after the jury had filed out, Mr. Bonner, who appeared to be in near tears, fell into Mr. Stans's arms and embraced him.

Mr. 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 Mr. Vesco in return for a secret, \$200,000 cash contribution by Mr. Vesco to President Nixon's re-election campaign. Both former Cabinet members were leaders of the campaign.

Mr. Bonner described Mr.

Stans as a man of "integrity," "honor" and "character" who could not be bought off with a \$200,000 contribution, who had once turned down a \$1-million campaign contribution. "That's a hell of a fixer; some fixer," Mr. Bonner said.

"You know, ladies and gentlemen, disease is something we normally associate with the medical profession, but there is a disease in this case, and my client aptly named it from the stand just a few days ago. He called it 'Vescoitis,'" Mr. Bonner began.

"It was conceived in the test tubes of the prosecution, and it has permeated the life of my client, and if I may speak for a moment of Mr. Mitchell, for a full year," he continued. "It has permeated this courtroom."

Mr. Vesco, now a fugitive, and 41 others are accused of defrauding investors of \$224-million.

Through the weeks of this trial, Mr. Bonner said, he had tried to "help cure that disease, to kill it and to stamp it out, so that we will have no more of it."

Mr. Bonner, about 6 feet tall, wears plaid suits, and wears his eye glasses perched atop his curly dark-brown hair. He is given to emotionalism in the court, as a tactic.

**A Soft Beginning**

Starting softly, Mr. Bonner said that his client "has been treated in this courtroom as though his heart and mind and soul were wrapped up with and dedicated to a man named Robert Vesco."

"It is not true," Mr. Bonner shouted. "You have learned that he met him once."

At times Mr. Bonner acted like a Southern evangelist preacher, stepping away from the lectern, and throwing his arms outward and upward.

"What was he supposed to do when somebody brought up Vesco's name," the lawyer shouted, his arms extended. "Shall he adhesive tape his mouth, cut out his tongue?"

There has been testimony in this trial that Mr. Stans prevailed on G. Bradford Cook, then counsel to the S.E.C., to get the commission to delete all mention of the \$200,000 from its formal charges against Mr. Vesco.

Mr. Stans has denied this, and said that instead it was Mr. Cook, a Nebraska man hoping for Mr. Stans's support in making him chairman of the S.E.C. who kept bringing up Mr. Vesco's name to Mr. Stans.

"Hell no, Mr. Stans's mouth should not be taped," Mr. Bonner said, his arms still extended. "It wasn't Stans who brought it [Vesco] up. Hell no, it was this precious boy from Nebraska who had it all and wanted more."

**Acting Out All Parts**

On other occasions, Mr. Bonner was like the narrator of a children's fairy story recording, acting out all the parts himself; Mr. Stans, John W. Dean 3d,

other persons who have testified at this trial.

"Can you believe Dean?" Mr. Bonner asked. "Hell, he wouldn't even tell you" the truth about

his conversations with Mr. Stans. It is the defense's contention that Mr. Dean, then counsel to the President, advised Mr. Stans not to tell the S.E.C. about the \$200,000 secret contribution. Mr. Dean has denied this on the witness stand.

"That's the same John Dean who pleaded guilty, but whose sentence was deferred, who hopes his cooperation in this case" will get him a light sentence in the Watergate case, Mr. Bonner said. "I give you John Dean and I give you Maurice Stans. You have your choice. It's all yours."

At one point Mr. Bonner expressed fear that the jurors might not like President Nixon, and therefore might be prejudiced against Mr. Stans, so he warned them sternly: "You are not here to judge Richard Nixon. You are here to judge Maurice Stans. He raised \$60-million to re-elect President Nixon, a man you may not like, but the fact remains over 60 per cent of the people voted for him."

The Vesco contribution was given to Mr. Stans on April 10, 1972, three days after a new law requiring that contributions of more than \$100 be made public. It is the defense contention that the contribution was promised before April 7, and therefore it was, in fact, completed before April 7.

Mr. Bonner quoted to the jury the campaign contribution law, and the sections he quoted stipulated that a contribution could be counted on if it had been "promised."

"That man is anything but a damned fool," Mr. Bonner said of his client. "For God's sake, if he were involved in a fix, he sure as hell would have sent someone to get the money down to D.C."

"Can you believe a man so meticulous could be that sloppy?" That he would say, "Ah me, we'll let it go until next week" when he faced that new

law? He believed in good conscience it was a pre-April contribution, on advice of counsel," Mr. Bonner said.

There has also been testimony that in an effort to hide the Vesco contribution it was listed merely under the initials "J.M."—for John Mitchell—rather than under Mr. Vesco's name.

"If you were involved in a conspiracy with the former Attorney General, would you put it [the contribution] down under J.M.?" Mr. Bonner asked "Is he a madman?"

He also told the jury that it was unthinkable that a man like Mr. Stans would accept a contribution in return for a favor, the lawyer listed several large contributions that Mr. Stans had turned down, including one of \$1-million.

"You don't play games with Maurice Stans because he'll tell you what to do with your contribution," Mr. Bonner shouted. Mr. Stans headed the financing

of the President's campaign and Mr. Mitchell, for a time, headed the campaign itself.

The summation for the Stans defense was scheduled for yesterday morning, which meant that the Mitchell defense summation would have been in the afternoon.

Under this scheduling, the Government summation would have taken place this morning, followed by the judge's charge to the jury. Then the case would have been given to the jury for its deliberation.

However, the defense did not want the Government to have the impact of having its summation alone on a day, so the defense spent yesterday morning arguing over the admission of evidence in this case. This meant that Mr. Bonner was forced to give his summation in the afternoon, and that Peter Fleming Jr., Mr. Mitchell's lawyer, will sub up this morning, with the Government summation following this afternoon.