

Vesco: Verdict 'Fair'

New York

Robert L. Vesco said yesterday he is happy with the jury's verdict in the trial of John Mitchell and Maurice Stans.

"First fair verdict I've heard in a long time," said the millionaire during an interview by CBS radio at his refuge in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Vesco, whose contribution to President Nixon's reelection campaign played a crucial role in the prosecution's case in the trial here,

said he had not anticipated acquittal.

"My own view has been consistently that the pretrial publicity had been so serious that that may override proper judicial process."

The financier, who has taken up exile in the face of numerous investigations of his dealings, was asked whether the verdict might persuade him to return to the United States.

"I have no desire to come back, favorable verdict or not," he answered.

When asked whether he has confidence in the jury system in respect to his own case, Vesco said:

"No. I just feel that the publicity has been so bad, so distorted, it would be very difficult to get a fair trial in the United States. But even beyond that it isn't only the jury system you have to protect yourself with, it's the pressures and harassments and the persecutions that go on in a free trial basis."

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