

# A Hearing on Vesco Plane Mystery

Newark, N.J.

A New Jersey Superior Court judge yesterday ordered all parties involved in the removal of financier Robert Vesco's Boeing 707 jetliner from a Panamanian airport last Thursday into his courtroom today in an effort to ascertain whether any international laws were violated by the flight.

In a related action, Alwyn Eisenhower, the pilot who landed the plane at Newark International Airport Saturday, deactivated the aircraft's controls yesterday to insure that it could not be flown out of Newark by any one other than himself.

Judge Irwin I. Kimmelman ordered Eisenhower and Jay Benenson, an attorney representing the law firm named as receiver for Fairfield General Corp., one of Vesco's former companies, to appear in Essex county court today at 1:30 p.m. for a public explanation of details surrounding the flight.

Kimmelman denied that he had authorized the flight, but admitted that he had known of Eisenhower's plans.

Although full details of the two-day flight and the plans leading up to it are not expected to be released until the court hearing, Eisen-

hauer said the motivation for the reclaiming of the jet was to recover more than \$55,000 he claims is owed him by Fairfield General for unpaid salary and "out-of-pocket" expenses.

Interviews with Kimmelman and Benenson yesterday indicated that actual ownership of the plane remains in doubt and that several other creditors have obtained liens against it including a \$600,000 lien held by Pan American Airways.

Eisenhower vigorously asserted that he had followed the letter of all aviation and international laws applicable to the removal of the plane, and that authorities in Panama and in Mexico City, where he stopped Thursday night for fuel, had cooperated with him fully.

Benenson said he views the jet as Fairfield General's "most valuable asset." He estimated the plane's current value at approximately \$2 million.

Vesco, who is now a fugitive, was indicted with former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans for allegedly trying to influence a Securities and Exchange Commission inquiry into Vesco's affairs in exchange for his political contributions to President Nixon's 1972 campaign.

Both former Cabinet members were cleared of all charges stemming from the case by a federal jury in New York City last month.

*New York Times*