

Eisenhowers Ordered To Pre-Trial Hearing

By Eugene L. Meyer

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David and Julie Eisenhower were ordered yesterday to appear Nov. 26 at a D.C. Superior Court hearing prompted by a man who says he needs them as defense witnesses in a \$4 million check forgery trial in Florida.

The man, James Gokey, 29, also known as J. Alan Durham 3d, contends that he has known David Eisenhower since 1970 and that the couple attended a cocktail party he gave in February on the Spirit, a yacht he leased for a week in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The forgery charge came after Gokey wrote a postdated \$4 million check to buy another yacht, the Intent, in April, with the right to rescind the purchase the week before the check date. Before that happened, however, Gokey was arrested and charged with forgery.

Also pending against Gokey, who once served two years for forgery in New York's Attica State Prison, are 12 counts of forgery in California and a federal charge in New York of making a false statement on a loan application.

Gokey's Florida defense and the reason he needs the Eisenhowers' testimony, his public defender attorney, Stephen Bronis said yesterday, is to establish that he also was known as J. Alan Durham 3d, the name he used in signing the \$4 million check. Under state law, Bronis explained, there can be no forgery if the signer did not intend his alias to be anyone other than himself.

As J. Alan Durham 3d, Bronis said, many people assumed he was heir to the North Carolina Durham tobacco fortune. "Of course, he didn't try to discourage it," Bronis said. "Bronis said Gokey met Eisenhower during New York Republican fund-raising efforts in 1970 and has seen him name or ten times since in Los Angeles and Chicago, using the Durham name on all occasions.

Cindy Vander Heuvel, a

spokeswoman for the Eisenhowers and Mrs. Eisenhower's assistant in the Washington office of The Saturday Evening Post, denied yesterday that the couple knew him by either name or had been on the yacht.

Dade County Circuit Judge Ralph B. Ferguson Jr. issued the court papers that led to the scheduled Nov. 26 hearing before D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Harold H. Greene.