

Summa Corp. May Be Ready To Challenge Hughes 'Will'

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LOS ANGELES, May 14—A spokesman for Summa Corp., the holding company for much of the estate of billionaire Howard R. Hughes, indicated today that Summa may be ready to challenge a will purportedly drawn up by Hughes in 1968 and filed last month in Las Vegas.

The will—first of a number of documents claiming to be authentic distributions of the estimated \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion estate of Hughes—is scheduled to come up for a hearing in a Las Vegas court May 21. The document surfaced at an office of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Arelo Sederberg, spokesman for Summa here, reiterated what the corporation's attorneys indicated in a court document filed last week in Wilmington, Del. that certain parts of the three-page handwritten document are "challengeable." Summa, incorporated in Delaware but based here, called the document a "purported" will.

"I would assume Summa will be armed with some strong evidence to support their viewpoint," Sederberg said when asked today about the corporation's plans for the hearing.

He said no other will has been found that Summa executives feel was drawn up by Hughes. He said the corporation does have an unsigned copy of a letter Hughes drew up in 1938 that gives instructions to a Houston bank on how to carry out a will, but does not have a copy of a 1938 will or the original letter.

Summa attorneys and investigators have been searching for another will. Among the places they have looked, Sederberg said, are the Hughes headquarters here, which were burglarized in 1974; bank vaults that might be opened with a key found among Hughes' possessions after his death April 5; offices and locations where he stayed and aircraft hangars.

Summa investigators also have been busy attempting to break down the first "will," which turned up at

the Mormon church headquarters in Salt Lake City.

That "will" divides Hughes' holdings among a number of beneficiaries, including Hughes' two former wives, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, various universities, the Boy Scouts, the Mormons, a home to be established for orphans, personal aide and Melvin Dummar, a Utah gas station operator.

Earlier this week, Edward Kelly, publisher of Millionaire Magazine of Anaheim, Calif., said Dummar's aunt by marriage, Bonnie Dummar, had access to a number of Hughes files while the magazine was compiling a book, "The Other Side of Howard Hughes," several years ago. She has denied having anything to do with the March, 1968, "will."

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, a handwriting expert hired by executor Noah Dietrich began examining the "will" today in preparation for next week's probate hearing.

At the hearing, probate commissioner Russell Waite, the court's administrator will present documents submitted to the county clerk by interested parties that may support the will's validity.

The burden of proving the validity of the will rests with Dietrich, who may then present his experts' evidence.

Also, persons contesting the will would be able to give evidence that the will is not genuine. County officials expect a number of contests to be filed with the court next week, which could delay the hearing until all challenges have been considered.