

Sanctuary-Seeking Denied

Howard Hughes Seen Moving to Bahamas

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FREEPORT, Bahamas, Dec. 22 (AP)—Howard R. Hughes, a portion of his business empire under federal scrutiny, reportedly has again taken up residence in the Bahamas, two weeks after another international financier residing here avoided extradition to the United States.

Hughes reportedly left his London hideaway hotel earlier in the week and moved into a hotel owned by another publicity-shy businessman.

On Dec. 7, a Bahamian magistrate refused to order fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco removed to the United States, ruling that a federal wire fraud charge was not an extraditable offense under a 1931 U.S.-Bahamas treaty.

Potential legal action against Hughes may result from a grand jury investigation under way in Las Vegas. Details of the probe are sketchy, but U.S. Attorney V. DeVoe Heaton has confirmed that the panel is looking into the acquisition of Air West, an airline formed in 1968.

A Hughes spokesman in Los Angeles, Richard Hannah, de-

scribed as "ridiculous" any suggestion that the financier had flown to Bahamas to avoid extradition should an indictment be returned against him.

"There can be no sane reason to even think about any indictment of Mr. Hughes," Hannah said today. Asked about Hughes' whereabouts, Hannah said he could not be sure where Hughes went after leaving London although he is "likely to visit his interests in the Bahamas."