

Hughes wills probe considered

Las Vegas (AP)—Authorities said yesterday a criminal investigation is being considered into a rash of wills, all purportedly written by the late billionaire, Howard R. Hughes, which have been filed here.

The district attorney, George Holt, said yesterday his office is "looking very carefully" at the recent wills, and an investigation into possible forgery, fraud or perjury is under consideration.

"At this time we don't have any investigation," Mr. Holt said, but after the filing of four wills here, including three this week, "we're looking at it very seriously now."

Later, Mr. Holt issued a news release stating his office would "vigorously prosecute criminally any such person or combination of persons" who fraudulently claim heirship.

Mr. Holt pointed out 1- to 10-year prison sentences are possible for persons found guilty of such felonies as forgery, fraud or perjury.

Mr. Hughes left a fortune estimated between \$1.5 billion and \$2.5 billion.

In other Hughes-related developments yesterday:

- In Carson City, Nev., the long-standing effort of a Las Vegas publisher, Hank Greenspun, to get an oral deposition from Mr. Hughes was dismissed by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Mr. Greenspun filed suit in 1972, alleging the Summa Corporation, the umbrella company for the Hughes holdings, tried to cloud title to land Mr. Greenspun and his wife, Barbara, owned around in the Las Vegas area.

Following Mr. Hughes's death April 5, Summa asked that the oral deposition issue be dismissed. Mr. Greenspun did not oppose the motion.

- In Austin, Texas, the state comptroller, Bob Bullock, said he has "fairly conclusive proof" that Mr. Hughes was a resident of Texas, which could mean as

much as \$335 million in inheritance-tax revenue for Texas.

Mr. Bullock noted that efforts are under way in several other states to prove that Mr. Hughes, who was born and died in Houston, was a resident of those states.

"But I think we've got them beat. Once a Texan, always a Texan," Mr. Bullock said.

- In Salt Lake City, Salt Lake county's attorney, Paul Van Dam, said he received a statement alleging that several persons were implicated in a hoax in the case of the first purported Hughes will.