Hughes' Contribution in Question

By Jack Anderson siphoned from one of his Las for the presidency... Vegas gambling casinos for Hu-

of the \$50,000 mystery money on che case was delivered to me back in the headlines.

tions to the head of his Nevada ter the White House.'

The \$50,000 was supposed to briefcase. have been a downpayment on that promise. But we wrote that "there's no record the \$50,000 was ever received."

Maheu refused to discuss the matter with us in 1971. But now "borrowed" the money from the possibility. Frontier Hotel casino and deliv-Century Plaza Hotel.

tory on the incident. He recalls Hughes. agents and well wishers.

Humphrey. "My reply, in sub-

bert H. Humphrey's 1968 presidential campaign? absolutely no recollection of rewould have to talk to Duane Andential campaign? ceiving an attache case stuffed
We published the first report with cash from Maheu. "No atta-

empire, Robert Maheu, to "get firmed by the two aides, William the word to (Humphrey) on a ba- Connell and David Gartner a Hughes contribution. the word to (Humphrey) on a ba- Connell and David Gartner, sis of secrecy that is really, re- whom Maheu had mentioned as ally reliable that we will give possible corroborrating withim immediately full, unlimited nesses. Both have testified that the the Hughes organization by confidence men, but an insupport for his campaign to en- they also have no recollection of the delivery of the mysterious dreas."

Humphrey told us in 1971 that he had heard Maheu had contributed to his campaign but had no personal knowledge of it. In his interrogatory, Hum-Hughes donation could be ache has sworn under oath that he phrey again acknowledges this

ered it to Humphrey in a brief. former environmental aide, the Las Vegas airport to talk to case in front of Los Angeles' John Meier, who was the inter- the Vice President. "I told him I mediary between Hughes and had talked to Andreas," Meier ship council (actually made up We have obtained a copy of Humphrey. Meier kept exten- recounted. Humphrey's sworn interroga- sive diaries of his years with 'Great.' "

meeting Maheu in front of the The diaries show that on May election, while the nation still tional Banker Association." Century Plaza on July 29, 1968. 9, 1968, Meier arranged for Ma- awaited some final votes from As Humphrey describes the en- heu to meet Humphrey in Den- the West, Meier said he re- cepted, with the largest number counter, he was surrounded by ver where the then-Vice Presi- ceived a telephone call from coming from the Philippines. staff members, Secret Service dent was speaking. The two Humphrey's son, Bob, who was Swiss bankers, known as "the Hughes aides solicited Hum- employed briefly by a Hughes gnomes of Zurich" for their se-

phrey said he did not want to from Hughes. But Humphrey swore he had talk about money, and said we

Meier's diary shows he saw August 6, 1971. Now the story is and, to the best of my knowl. Humphrey again on June 18 in time, Meier told him he had edge, no attache case was deliv. the Vice President's office in Our 1971 account quoted ered to the automobile in which the many-chimneyed, ginger been trying without success to Hughes' handwritten instruc- Iwas traveling..." he asserted, bread White House annex. On get Hughes to contribute to His recollection has been con- structions from Maheu, Meier

"Look, John," he said Hummake me nervous. Talk to An-

New York City's Waldorf Asto- distinguished financiers. ria on Oct. 16. Andreas gave him said this was the only way a

On Oct. 25, Meier went aboard We have now reached Hughes' Humphrey's campaign plane at "Humphrey said,

cepted.

On Nov. 6, the day after the

Then Maheu brought up the response to a question from What happened to the \$50,000 stance, was that I thanked him question of a campaign contribution. Recalls Meier: "Hum-never received a contribution of that billionaire Howard Hughes for his offer of support in my bid bution. Recalls Meier: "Hum-never received a contribution of the standard of the stand

> Footnote: My associate George Clifford visited Meier in the headquarters of Hughes' Nevada operations shortly beheu are now involved in extensive litigation with Hughes.

Bankers Bilked-Only rarely phrey told him, "Hughes and are the world's bankers taken in genious engineer laid off by the federal government has wan-Meier met with Andreas in gled \$34 apiece out of some 400

a list of campaign organizations McLarren came up with the idea To support his family, Robert that could receive funds and of an "International Banker Association." He combed lists of world bankers and sent them invitations to become fellows of the "IBA."

> The handsome invitations solemnly advise that a memberonly of McLarren) has elected them "to membership in the grade of a fellow in the Interna-

Some 400 bankers have ac-Maheu "wanted to wish me phrey's help to stop nuclear company. Humphrey himself retive ways, were the most sus-well and to be of help," testified testing in Nevada.