

Rebozo Reportedly Acknowledges Receiving \$100,000

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 — An investigator for the Senate Watergate committee interviewed Charles G. Rebozo, one of President Nixon's closest friends, this week about allegations that Mr. Rebozo had collected \$100,000 in cash contributions to President Nixon's re-election campaign from Howard R. Hughes, according to a committee official.

It could not be learned what Mr. Rebozo told the interviewer, Terry F. Benzner, an assistant chief counsel of the committee. But one Government official said that Mr. Rebozo had acknowledged to agents of the Internal Revenue Service that he had accepted the contribution.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., the Connecticut Republican said today that he hoped that the committee would call Mr. Hughes the billionaire industrialist, and Mr. Rebozo as public witnesses.

The disclosure that Mr. Rebozo had been interviewed in Florida came as the committee was hearing testimony from a former Federal investigator who said that, while he was working for the Office of Economic Opportunity, he spent lunch hours spying on the Presidential Campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie.

Hughes Aide Quoted

A man who was once a top assistant to Mr. Hughes, Robert A. Maheu, charged recently that Mr. Hughes's cash contribution had been made in return for political favors. The money was given to Mr. Rebozo in 1969 and 1970 in two \$50,000 installments by aides to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Maheu said.

Mr. Maheu's charges were made in a deposition as part of his \$17.5-million libel suit against Mr. Hughes.

In the public testimony today, John R. Buckley, who was called Fat Jack by his superiors in President Nixon's re-election committee, called his espionage activities legal, moral and ethical and declared that similar work was done as "a matter of course" in most political campaigns.

That assessment was challenged by Senators on the committee. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, who is the committee chairman, said that there had been no spying in any race he was involved in, and added:

"I refuse to accept your theory that, because there has been murder and larceny in every generation, murder has

become meritorious."

Testimony Rescheduled

Mr. Buckley was to have been followed to the witness table today by another man who worked in espionage activities for the Nixon campaign, Michael McMinoway. But Mr. McMinoway's lawyer could not appear because his airplane was grounded in Louisville this

morning, and Mr. McMinoway's testimony was rescheduled for tomorrow.

In addition to Mr. Buckley's testimony, however, there were these other developments today:

¶The committee voted to begin tomorrow an inquiry into "dirty tricks" pulled on behalf of Democratic Presidential candidates.

¶The lawyer for the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal nonprofit public affairs organization here, filed an affidavit with the committee charging that Government agencies had wiretapped and broken into the institute's offices.

Mr. Buckley, a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was the director of the inspection division at

O.E.O. until last June, when he retired.

He told the committee that he was given \$1,000 a month in late 1971 and in early 1972 by Kenneth S. Reitz, then youth director of the President's re-election campaign, and asked to gather inside information about Senator Muskie's campaign operations.

Mr. Buckley said that he had

From Hughes to Aid Nixon

paid most of the money to a retired taxi driver, who was a friend of his, and had the driver volunteer to make deliveries for the Maine Senator. But he said that he had also spent a sizable sum of the money, which came from contributions to the President's campaign committee, to buy expensive photographic equipment and to rent a small office near the Muskie headquarters.

Mr. Buckley said that, when the driver, Elmer Wyatt, had documents to be delivered from Senator Muskie's political headquarters to the Senator's Capitol Hill office, he called Mr. Buckley at the O.E.O.

Mr. Buckley testified that he would leave the poverty agency at lunchtime, meet Mr. Wyatt at a street corner, take the documents to the office he had rented and take pictures of the ones he found interesting.

Much of the material was worthless, Mr. Buckley said, but periodically he photographed itineraries and position papers. He said that he turned over the pictures, also during the lunch hour, to Nixon campaign officials whom he met on corners near the White House.

Contact Was Hunt

At first, he said, he gave the pictures to Mr. Reitz, but later his contract was E. Howard Hunt Jr. Hunt has acknowledged having participated in the burglaries at the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate building in June, 1972, and at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist the previous summer.

Asked whether he believed that "political espionage is an acceptable practice," Mr. Buckley responded:

"I think political espionage goes on all the time. It has gone on for many, many years. I do not feel that I invented it."

Mr. Buckley was repeatedly pressed to give specific examples, and he did not do so. Committee staff members said, however, that it was he who passed on to the Republican National Chairman, George Bush, allegations that the Watergate committee's chief investigator, Carmine S. Bellino, had recruited spies to help defeat Mr. Nixon in the 1960 presidential race.

A subcommittee of the full panel has investigated the allegations and has reportedly found them to be unsubstantiated.

Tomorrow, when Mr. McMinoway's testimony is over, the committee plans to call Fred Taugher, a former campaign aide in California for Senator George McGovern. According to Samuel Dash, the committee's chief counsel, Mr. Taugher allowed Senator McGovern's telephone bank in Los Angeles to be used by persons organizing a demonstration against President Nixon.

On Thursday, according to Mr. Dash, the scheduled witnesses are Frank Mankiewicz, who was Senator McGovern's national campaign coordinator, and Berl I. Bernhard, director of Senator Muskie's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The allegations about Government surveillance of the Institute for Policy Studies were made by Mitchell Rogovin. A spokesman for the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, said that his staff would ask for a copy of the affidavit.



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John D. Dunlevy, who worked for President Nixon's re-election committee, explaining to the Watergate committee how he copied Senator Edmund S. Muskie's letters.