Nixon-Danner May Meeting Confirmed

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times WASHINGTON, Jan. 25—The White House acknowledged today that President Nixon met last May with Richard G. Danner, a Las Vegas gambler who delivered a \$100,000 payment in 1970 from Howard Hughes to Charles G. Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's close friend.

In response to questions about reports of the meeting, begins three days of public Gerald L. Warren, the deputy hearings on the circumstances White House press secretary, surrounding the receipt, and characterized it as a "courtesy visit" of five or 10 minutes by Mr. Danner to the President's Camp David, Md., retreat.

Mr. Warren said that the interests. touched on the Hughes money, friend of the President who a subject that Mr. Warren has first introduced him to Mr. previously maintained that Mr. Rebozo 23 years ago. Nixon and Mr. Danner never discussed.

had told the Senate Watergate was first mentioned at a meetcommittee of an earlier meet-ing in Washington in the suming between himself and the mer of 1968. Both Mr. Rebozo President at Mr. Nixon's San after Mr. Danner says he passed part of the Hughes according to the committee remoney to Mr. Rebozo.

Version From Rebozo

that he received \$50,000 from cussed the desirability of such Mr. Danner at San Clemente in a contribution without men-July, 1970, and \$50,000 more tioning a specific amount. Mr. from him a few months later, Danner then reportedly made maintains that he held the cash contact with a Hughes reprein a safe deposit box for three sentative who expressed interyears but did not advise Mr. lest, but the arrangement is said Nixon of the money until after to have fallen through when his re-election to the Presidency Mr Rebozo balked at a request in November, 1972.

earlier this month that the Nixon or on his behalf. President had never discussed Hughes with Mr. Danner, who February, 1969, he was report-Presidential campaign and who behalf, on a number of mis-

Sands Hotel and Casino in La Vegas.

Mr. Danner's secretary reached by telephone this afternoon, said that he had left the country and could not be found for comment on reports of his testimony about the meeting: before a closed session of the committee Watergate month.

The committee plans to cal Mr. Rebozo and Mr. Danner as witnesses next week when i eventual return, of the Hughes payment, and allegations that it was intended to bring favor able Government action bear ing on some of Mr. Hughes's

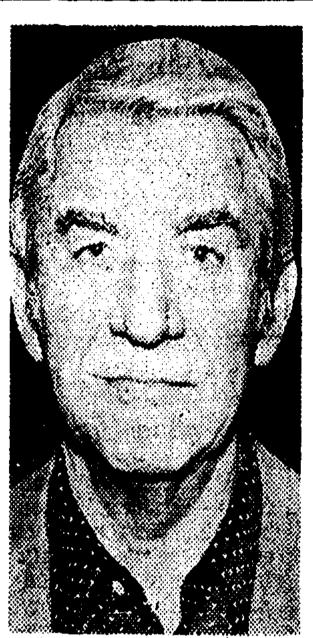
conversation had not Mr. Danner is a long-time

According to sources close to the committee's investiga-The White House did not tion of the Hughes affair, Mr. trust division that would have immediately comment on a re-Danner told investigators that lated report in The New York the possibility of obtaining a Times today that Mr. Danner contribution from Mr. Hughes Las Vegas hotels he then owned. and Mr. Nixon, who was then Clemente, Palif., estate, just the Republican Presidential can 1970. didate, attended the meeting, report.

Mr. Rebozo, who has said stood to have recalled, dis-Mr. Warren told reporters edged to Mr. Hughes by Mr.

After Mr. Danner was hired now manages the Hughes-owned sions involving Mr. Nixon or hotels. his Administration.

to reverse a ruling by its anti-home the following August.



United Press International Richard G. Danner

prevented Mr. Hughes from purchasing more than the five

This decision was said to have been made at a meeting with John N. Mitchell, then the Attorney General, in March,

Robert Maheu, a former Hughes aide, has alleged that Mr. Danner told him upon re-And both Mr. Nixon and Mr. turning from this meeting that Rebozo, Mr. Danner is under the Hughes empire had "incurred a political obligation."

Watergate committee sources concede they had no evidence showing that Mr. Mitchell was aware that Mr. Danner would deliver \$50,000 to Mr. Rebozo at San Clemente four months later.

Mr. Danner reportedly has that any donation be acknowl-told the committee staff that, after he handed over he \$100 bills, Mr. Rebozo led him into Mr. Nixon's office, where he any contributions from Mr. by the Hughes organization in and the President talked not of the money but of how difworked in Mr. Nixon's 1968 edly dispatched, on Mr. Hughes's ficult it was becoming to book "clean" shows into Las Vegas

Mr. Danner and Mr. Rebozo One such assignment, com- have said that the second inmittee sources said, resulted in stallment was delivered at Mr. a Justice Department decision Rebozo's Key Biscayne, Fla.,

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