

# Hughes Reportedly Paid Millions to See TV Films

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LOS ANGELES, March 26—Howard R. Hughes paid \$3.65-million for a television station in Las Vegas so he could watch old Western and aviation movies in the hours before dawn, the man who sold the station told a Federal trial jury here today.

Herman N. Greenspun, publisher of The Las Vegas Sun, also recounted other stories about Mr. Hughes, the reclusive billionaire, when he lived from 1966 to 1970 in a penthouse suite at the Desert Inn Hotel-Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

Mr. Greenspun told of borrowing \$4-million at 3 per cent interest from Mr. Hughes, of receiving \$500,000 in prepayment for newspaper advertising, and of selling the Paradise Valley Country Club to Mr. Hughes for \$2.75-million.

The latter deal fell through when Mr. Hughes discovered that the golf course was irrigated with water reclaimed from sewage, as are most golf courses in the Las Vegas area, Mr. Greenspun testified. Hughes executives were ordered to stay off the course, Mr. Greenspun said.

He was a witness in a \$17.3-million defamation suit filed by Robert A. Maheu, Mr. Hughes's Nevada properties manager in those days, against the Summa Corporation, the Hughes holding company. The suit is over a 1972 telephoned news conference statement by

Mr. Hughes that Mr. Maheu "stole me blind."

Mr. Hughes's lawyers are seeking to prove that Mr. Hughes was only stating a fact in his allegation about Mr. Maheu. The Hughes-Greenspun deals were arranged through Mr. Maheu. Mr. Hughes's representatives have contended that an interest-free loan from Mr. Greenspun to Mr. Maheu showed some secret transaction between them.

Mr. Greenspun denied this in his testimony today. He said that in 1967 Edward P. Morgan, a Washington lawyer who has represented Mr. Maheu, asked if Mr. Greenspun could make a

loan to Mr. Maheu, who needed cash to make a tax payment.

At that time Mr. Maheu's company was paid \$520,000 a year to work for Mr. Hughes. Mr. Greenspun said he offered to make a loan, that he understood it was for 60 or 90 days and so did not ask for interest, and was surprised when Mr. Maheu asked for \$150,000.

Mr. Greenspun said that he had asked for the money to be paid back after three months and was told that Mr. Maheu was unable to repay. He said he had never sued because "the guy's broke—it's like suing a blank wall." He said that Mr. Maheu had always acknowledged the debt.