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**Maheu Says Hughes Told Him
To Offer a Million to Johnson**

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LOS ANGELES, May 17—Robert A. Maheu testified here today that in 1968 Howard R. Hughes assigned him to offer \$1-million to President Johnson, provided nuclear weapons testing in Nevada was ended.

Mr. Maheu, a witness in his own \$17.3-million defamation suit against the Hughes interests for which he once worked, testified in Federal Court that the offer was to have the money delivered after Mr. Johnson left office.

But he said he had never made the offer, although he said he went to Dallas, and then to the LBJ Ranch, where the President was resting. He went by private plane.

In his testimony Mr. Maheu said that soon after President Johnson announced in March, 1968, that he would not run for re-election, Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Maheu to arrange a meeting with the President to deliver some messages that Mr. Hughes said he would give him later. He said the meeting was in the fall of 1968.

Arranged by Friend

Mr. Maheu, then the manager of the Hughes properties in Nevada, said that through a friend in Washington, whom he did not name, he arranged the interview. He said he received a telephone call from a Presidential aide, who was not named, saying that an appointment had been made for him to see Mr. Johnson at the ranch.

Mr. Maheu said he flew from Las Vegas to Dallas the night before the appointment, stayed overnight in a hotel, and the next morning went on to the ranch. Not until just before he was to leave Dallas for the last leg of the trip did Mr. Hughes tell him what the messages were, Mr. Maheu testified.

The first point, he said, was that he was to "feel out" Mr. Johnson about his attitude toward ending the war in Vietnam. Mr. Maheu said, "I didn't understand this at that time." He did not explain what he later understood was the purpose of this message.

The second point, he testified, was that he was to suggest to President Johnson that Mr. Hughes would give him \$1-million after he left office if he would stop the nuclear tests.

Mr. Hughes vigorously opposed the tests in the years when he lived in the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. They were being carried out in a desert testing ground near Las Vegas.

Mr. Maheu said he was met by Mrs. Johnson and two Secret

Service men when the plane landed on the airstrip at the LBJ Ranch. President Johnson, then drove him around the ranch, he testified.

The President said he had received a note on nuclear testing from Mr. Hughes, Mr. Maheu said. Mr. Johnson said the note was wrong in some points and that he did not plan to include it in his official papers because of the embarrassment it might some day create for Mr. Hughes, Mr. Maheu testified.

The two men then talked in a bedroom at the ranch, Mr. Maheu said. Mr. Maheu said he told Mr. Johnson that Mr. Hughes was interested in the President's future, and asked "how could we be of help" to him.

Mr. Maheu said the President replied that his chief interest was the LBJ Library and that all he would hope for was that Mr. Hughes would make a small contribution to it.

"I never made any suggestions beyond that point," Mr. Maheu testified. He said President Johnson said the nuclear weapons tests were of extreme importance to national security and must be continued.

"I was very relieved that my true assignment from Mr. Hughes did not have to be approached," Mr. Maheu said.

Mr. Hughes's attorneys attempted to keep this evidence from being put before the jury, and then attempted to have it stricken from the record after it had been given. They were overruled. Their request for a mistrial was also overruled.