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**Maheu Trial Judge
Rejects Defense Bid
On Jury Instruction**

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LOS ANGELES, June 26 —

A Federal judge rejected today a demand by lawyers for Howard R. Hughes that he amend his instructions to a jury that is deliberating Robert A. Maheu's \$17.3-million defamation claim against the Summa Corporation, the holding company that controls the Hughes financial interests.

The jury began deliberating yesterday. The trial began on Feb. 26.

When he charged the six-member jury, Judge Harry Pregerson said that Mr. Maheu seemed to be "affable, intelligent, imaginative, articulate" although the judge thought Mr. Maheu also was "somewhat naive, artless, careless, imprecise, and overly trusting man whose personal affairs were in a state of disarray."

Norbert Schlei, attorney for Mr. Hughes, asked today that a corrective instruction be given to the jury. The proposed instruction would have reiterated certain legal points on embezzlement. Judge Pregerson refused to give the instruction.

"I find it difficult to believe that the Court intended to intervene as drastically as the comments came across to us," Mr. Schlei told the judge today.

Mr. Schlei also argued that the judge's description of Mr. Maheu left out of account the contention by Mr. Hughes that Mr. Maheu had been improperly taking money from operating accounts that were under Mr. Maheu's control.

The Hughes defense hinges on proving to the jury that Mr. Hughes spoke the truth in January, 1972, when he said in a telephone press conference that Mr. Maheu "stole me blind" while he was one of Mr. Hughes's important employees.

The judge's comments about Mr. Maheu were given in the context of commenting on the relationship between Mr. Hughes and Mr. Maheu as seen through some 80 hand-written memorandans, copies of which were admitted into evidence.