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Testimony On Maheu Finances

Los Angeles

Howard Hughes curbed Robert A. Maheu's handling of political contributions in 1970 when discrepancies turned up in accounting for \$534,000 ostensibly doled out in less than two years, a top aide to the billionaire testified yesterday.

Nadine Henley, a senior vice president and director of Hughes Summa Corp., said a statement received from Maheu's accountant in late 1969 was "completely inaccurate." She testified it was \$75,000 short for 1968 and \$100,000 short for 1969.

Miss Henley, who had served as Hughes' personal secretary since the early 1940s, said she balked when Maheu requested another \$100,000 in late 1969 or early 1970.

She quoted Maheu, then chief of Hughes' Nevada operations, as saying he needed \$59,000 for money he had already spent and \$41,000 for commitments made. He said nothing about having withdrawn the \$59,000 from the Hughes-owned Silver Slipper casino, Miss Henley testified.

Miss Henley said she appraised Hughes that the accounts were confused, but payment of the final \$100,000 was authorized May 25 or 26, 1970.

"Mr. Hughes said to give Mr. Maheu the \$100,000 but that I should not give him any more money nor allow him to make any commitments without Mr. Hughes' prior approval," she testified.

Six months later Maheu was ousted. In a 1972 press conference Hughes said he fired Maheu "because he's a no-good, dishonest son of a bitch and he stole me blind" and "the money is gone and he's got it."

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