

Nixon Kin Might Have To Testify

By Morton Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon's brother, F. Donald Nixon, may be asked to testify under oath about the surveillance of his activities ordered by the Chief Executive, The Washington Post was told yesterday.

Lawyers for John Meier, former Howard Hughes aide, said in a telephone interview in Los Angeles that it was "possible" that they will try to take a deposition from Donald Nixon, a long-time friend of Meier.

The surveillance is one of the subjects "that would be bound to come up," Lillian Wyshak said. She and her husband, Robert, are co-counsel for Meier, who is under indictment in Las Vegas on charges of tax evasion and who is being sued for \$9 million by Hughes.

In related developments:

- The Los Angeles Times said that investigators for the Senate Watergate committee questioned Meier during two recent visits for a total of six days.

The newspaper said the subjects included Meier's relationship with the President's brother and his knowledge of Donald Nixon's financial affairs; the two payments of \$50,000 each made by billionaire recluse Hughes to C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, which the President says were given to his friend as intended contributions to the 1972 presidential campaign, and the possibility that Donald Nixon may have brought pressures in Hughes' behalf on a federal agency.

- A Senate source said the Watergate committee plans to take public testimony Tuesday from an executive of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. about the reported use of a European conduit to conceal an illegal contribution of \$30,000 in corporate funds to

BROTHER, From A1

the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

The committee staff has acted to compel Meier to testify publicly. It has asked U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica to grant Meier immunity from prosecution, and has notified the Justice Department that it was doing so. However, the committee itself has yet to decide whether it wants to swap Meier's public testimony for immunity.

Former White House aide John J. Caulfield has told the staff that the Secret Service, in addition to wiretapping Donald Nixon, also conducted a physical surveillance of his activities, The Washington Post reported yesterday.

The President, in reply to a question at a meeting of the Associated Press Managing Editors on Nov. 17, said that his brother was aware "during" the wiretapping that it was being conducted and "he approved of it."

The Chief Executive told the editors the wiretapping, conducted for "very good" reasons of "security," involved possible efforts by unspecified persons — "particularly anybody who might be in a foreign country" — to induce Donald Nixon in some way "to use improper influence." The President added, "I will not go beyond that."

Caulfield's testimony about an apparent physical surveillance in addition to the wiretapping raised a question: Having consented to the wiretapping, by the President's account, why would Donald Nixon have to be followed? Couldn't he simply be asked to name anyone with whom he made contact?

Meier, whose litigation with Hughes involves the billionaire's mining properties in Nevada, reportedly left the Hughes organization because he refused to heed a command to dissociate himself from Donald Nixon. The command was said to have been relayed from the White House.

Meier charged that the income-tax indictment, returned in September, was "politically motivated." It was based on evidence illegally obtained during wiretapping of Donald Nixon, he

charged.

Meier and Donald Nixon reportedly met to discuss "a big financial deal" before Meier quit or was fired from the Hughes organization.

The meeting was said to have been held at the Orange County, Calif., airport. Former White House investigator Caulfield reportedly told the Senate Watergate staff that he had seen a photo made at an airport of Donald Nixon and an unidentified man.



JOHN MEIER

... Donald Nixon's friend

During the 1968 presidential campaign, Donald Nixon and Meier were in New York City to arrange for a \$50,000 Hughes contribution to Richard Nixon's presidential campaign, Richard G. Danner, a friend of the President and an aide to Hughes, has testified.

Danner, who was working in the campaign with Rebozo, said that "Rebozo, of course, became alarmed . . . he didn't want it handled that way . . ."

In late 1969, Meier, now a resident of Vancouver, B.C., and Donald Nixon, a vice president of the Washington-based Marriott Corp., went to the Dominican Republic. There, they were entertained by high Dominican officials with whom Meier was negotiating mining claims. This possibly could relate to the President's mention of "a foreign country," although no relation to "security" is evident.

The illegal 3M contribution of \$30,000 in currency was acknowledged by the

firm in August but without details.

On Nov. 14, the St. Paul Pioneer Press said the Senate Watergate staff had learned that the money had been paid out to a European employee or consultant for phony business services. The money then reportedly was returned in cash to executives who contributed it to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President before a disclosure law became effective on April 7, 1972. Finance committee Chairman Maurice H. Stans was reported to have sought \$100,000.

The Washington Post reported on Oct. 22, 1972, that board chairman Harry Heltzer, whose firm was then the 51st largest industrial corporation in the United States had given a party for Stans in Minneapolis that 50 to 75 persons attended. In reply to reporters' questions, Heltzer said only that he had made an undisclosed personal contribution of "a couple of thousand dollars."