

Rebozo's Florida Profits

Nixon Pal Linked to Mafia Deal

GARDEN CITY (N.Y.) — (UPI) — Charles G. "Bebe" Rebozo, President Nixon's millionaire Florida friend, awarded a \$673,839 shopping center construction job financed through a deal with a federal agency to a former Cleveland Mafia mobster, it was reported today.

In a second of a series of articles entitled "Rebozo and a U.S. Loan: Capitalizing on Friends," the newspaper Newsday quoted Rebozo's partner in the 1968 Miami project, realtor C. V. W. Trice Jr., as saying they shopped among "five or six" contractors for the lowest price before awarding the job to Alfonso (Big Al) Polizzi.

"But Trice has refused to reveal any of the comparative bid figures," said Newsday, whose reporting team assigned to the series was rebuffed in attempts to interview Rebozo himself.

Tax Evasion

Polizzi was jailed in Ohio in 1943 on conviction of violation of war price controls and tax evasion.

He was a star witness before the Kefauver Committee in 1950, and as late as 1964 the Federal Bureau of Nar-

otics described him as one of the most influential members of the underworld in the United States.

(In Washington, White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said he would not comment on the series.

Ziegler was asked whether there was White House concern over the stories reflected on the integrity of Rebozo.

"We have absolutely no concern about the integrity of Mr. Rebozo," Ziegler said.)

Shopping Center

According to Newsday, Rebozo was approached by the federal Small Business Administrator in 1967 about building a shopping center for refugee Cuban businessmen at the suggestion of a Rebozo friend, Thomas Butler, an official in the agency's Miami office and a stockholder in a Rebozo-controlled bank.

Harold Brown, director of the SBA's lease guarantee program in Washington, accompanied Trice to New York to help obtain a \$750,000 loan from Equitable Life Assurance Co.

Thomas Murray, a vice

president of Equitable, told Newsday that Trice "said that Rebozo knows Dick Nixon," but he insisted that carried no weight in the company's decision to grant the loan.

He said Brown convinced him that since the government guaranteed the leases of the individual stores in the center, Equitable was well protected.

'Philanthropic Act'

"We went into the shopping center deal because we felt it was a philanthropic act," the newspaper quoted Trice as saying.

However, it was profitable, too, and Trice and Rebozo wound up with a profit of \$200,000 when they sold the center to Canadian investors in 1970 for \$1,050,000.

Newsday said the center is now only one-third occupied but the government continues to pay the leases on the empty stores.

Rebozo continues to own and operate a coin-operated laundry in the center, which originally was leased to Jose Alonso, who received a \$25,000 loan from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity.

Alonso, who was and still is an employe of a Rebozo-owned laundry chain, backed out of the lease and it was assumed by Rebozo.

Mr. Rebozo decided that he was going to own it," Alonso told Newsday.

The Newsday investigation also disclosed that:

• The SBA made concession after concession to Rebozo in regard to a \$60,000 loan he obtained to buy out the only Monroe County, Fla., competitor to his own Monroe Land Title Co. The loan was obtained in 1961 with the aid of then Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.) and repayments were extended to the limit of the law.

• Rebozo and a partner both made a \$60,000 profit on the sale of a piece of land obtained from the estate of Rebozo's 17 year old godson, for whom Rebozo was court-appointed administrator. The youth's estate received only \$4000 in interest from the transaction.

• In his application for a \$100,000 loan from the Small Business Administration in 1961, Rebozo said he could not obtain a loan elsewhere, although he had a land mortgage at the time which would allow him to borrow up to \$132,000 more and owned 60 acres of unmortgaged land. He also failed to inform the SBA he was co-owner of a Coral Gables motel site.