

EX-AIDE TO HUGHES AND 3 ARE INDICTED

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Jan. 14 (AP)—John Meier, former aide to Howard Hughes, and three other were indicted today by a Federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy and tax evasion involving the sale of \$8-million in mining claims to the Hughes Tool Company.

It was the second indictment for Mr. Meier, who was charged last August with two counts of attempting to evade \$200,000 in taxes in 1968 and 1969. The latest indictment surseles the allegations for 1969, while a count involving alleged tax evasion for 1970 is new.

Also indicted were Anthony Hatsis, 47 years old, and James P. Cowley, 45, both of Salt Lake City, and Robert Kahan, 59, Los Angeles. Mr. Hatsis is president of the Toledo Mining Company.

Mr. Meier was named in two indictments charging two counts of conspiracy and two counts of evading taxes for 1969 and 1970.

The indictment charges Mr. Meier with reporting income of \$56,916 for 1969 when he allegedly earned more than \$1.7-million with a tax liability of more than \$1.3-million. In 1970, Mr. Meier is accused of reporting income of \$42,226 when he allegedly earned more than \$583,000 with a tax liability of \$386,000.

Mr. Meier, 40, is currently free on \$100,000 bail on the original indictment. No new arraignment date has been set.

The second conspiracy charge alleges that Mr. Meier conspired with Mr. Hatsis, Mr. Cowley and Mr. Kahan to sell \$8.5-million in mining claims to Hughes Tool in 1969 and 1970.