

16 Jan 74

Column, as carried by WXP same date, deals with Navy's Alaskan oil reserves (filed Navy), and "Credit Snoops," (filed Surv).

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HOWARD HUGHES' choice of the Xanadu Hotel in the Bahamas as his newest hideaway wasn't dictated by mere whim. There has been a longstanding secret link between the phantom billionaire and the international shipping magnate who owns the hotel.

The owner is D. K. Ludwig. Back in 1969, Ludwig initiated a meeting with Hughes to discuss merging some of their millions.

According to our sources, the meeting was finally held on August 2, 1969. Ludwig quickly got to the point. He wanted to manage all of Hughes' hotels and casinos. Hughes agreed to think it over. There is no available record that he ever responded.

But now that Hughes is staying in Ludwig's hotel to avoid extradition to the United States, two of the world's richest recluses may once again sit down and talk business.