

Hughes Aide Freed by Mexican Judge in Forgery Case

~~Forgery Case~~

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MEXICO CITY, April 13 — A Mexican federal judge unexpectedly dropped today all charges against an aide to the late Howard R. Hughes who had been arrested and accused of falsifying the billionaire's signature in Acapulco two months ago.

The aide, Clarence Albert Waldron, a 41-year-old executive of Mr. Hughes's Summa Corporation, recovered \$400 that had been posted as bond last night and immediately left Acapulco for Los Angeles.

After studying the charges and evidence for almost 72 hours, Federal Judge Antonio Uribe Garcia concluded, on the basis of a technicality that there were insufficient "elements" to prove that Mr. Waldron had forged the signature on Mr. Hughes' tourist card when the latter entered Mexico Feb. 11.

Mr. Waldron was one of three aides who stayed behind in Acapulco after Mr. Hughes was rushed to Houston April 5 in a vain attempt to save his life.

The three aides were detained in the Acapulco Princess Hotel, Mr. Hughes' home during his final eight weeks. After extensive interrogation by the Federal police, Mr. Waldron was charged Saturday with falsification of immigration documents. The two other aides, Eric Bundy and Clyde Crow, were released.

Over the weekend, Mr. Waldron was held in Acapulco's municipal jail pending court appearance yesterday at which he was freed on bail.

Aide Is Quoted

HOUSTON, April 13 (AP) — The Houston Chronicle quoted Clarence Albert Waldron today as saying that Howard Hughes had been very sick for eight weeks before his death.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Waldron as saying that Mr. Hughes suffered a kidney infection that had kept him in bed or in a wheelchair during his eight-week stay in Acapulco.

The 70-year-old Mr. Hughes was pronounced dead on his arrival in Houston April 5 aboard a plane chartered to rush him from Acapulco to Methodist Hospital here. An autopsy attributed death to kidney disease.

OF 200 IS OFFERED