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**Purported Will of Hughes
Found at Mormon Office**

**But Church Officials Do Not Vouch for
Authenticity of Document—Summa
Aides Say It Looks 'Suspicious'**

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, April 29—Officials of the Mormon Church disclosed today that a handwritten will purportedly made six years ago by Howard R. Hughes had been found.

A lawyer for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) delivered the three-page, liquid-stained docu-

The text of purported Hughes will is on page A17.

ment this afternoon to Loretta Bowman, Clark County clerk, and Elda Hanks, assistant clerk, in the courthouse at Las Vegas, Nev.

At Salt Lake City, a written statement issued from Mormon headquarters said church officials did not know how the document happened to appear mysteriously two days ago on a desk in a church office.

Church officials did not vouch for the authenticity of the will, which gives the church one-sixteenth of Mr. Hughes's estate—a sum that could be \$100 million.

"Circumstances surrounding the delivery of the note frankly

puzzle us after a day of extensive checking," the church statement said.

Executives of Mr. Hughes's Summa Corporation, who are in operating control of the late industrialist's \$1.5 billion empire pending court decisions on administrators, also were cautious in their appraisal.

A Summa statement said the executives would not "give a firm statement denying the authenticity of the will," but the statement said that there were several troublesome points, such as a reference to Mr. Hughes's huge, all-wooden stored airplane as the "Spruce Goose," a name the Summa statement said the eccentric Mr. Hughes disliked. He left the plane to the city of Long Beach, Calif.

The Summa statement said the purported will "contained many errors that make it look suspicious."

The purported will divided Mr. Hughes's wealth among his former associates, his two former wives, a cousin, four educational institutions, a home

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for orphans, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Boy Scouts of America, his personal aides who lived with him on shifts, a national scholarship fund and the Mormon Church. The bequests were in sixteenths, except for the medical institute, which got a quarter. Five-sixteenths were left to "the key men of the company's [sic] I own at the time of my death."

Died in a Plane

Mr. Hughes died on April 5 in a plane on the way from Acapulco, Mexico, to Houston where he was to be treated for kidney failure. His executives have since said they could not find a will, although they said earlier this week that they found a copy of a letter that appeared to have been written to accompany a will.

The document delivered to the courthouse in Las Vegas today by Wilford W. Kirton Jr., legal counsel for the Latter-day Saints church, was dated March 19, 1968. From November 1968. From November 1906, until November 1970, Mr. Hughes lived in a penthouse of the Desert Inn, a hotel and casino

that he bought during that period on the Las Vegas Strip.

In the delivering the will to Las Vegas, Mr. Kirton was following instructions written on the inner of the two envelopes that church officials said had contained the will when it was found in the church office Tuesday afternoon.

If the will should be genuine, One of the big surprises in it is that Mr. Hughes designated Noah Dietrich, his top aide for almost 40 years, as executor.

Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Hughes split in bitter, personal feuding in 1957 and had no contact since that time, according to the 88-year-old Mr. Dietrich.

No Contact Since 1957

"I can only hope it's genuine. It would mean dollars to me and I can use it," Mr. Dietrich said in a telephone call.

One of the problems of those who must decide if the will is authentic is that Mr. Hughes's behavior was so unusual for the last two decades of his life. He lived in secrecy; No more than a half dozen persons outside his immediate staff of a dozen or less saw him between 1966 and his death.

He communicated with his

op staff sometimes by handwritten notes on lined yellow pads. The purported will is drawn on such paper.

He liked to mislead those closest to him. He loved surprises for other. He seemed to want to create mysteries to which only he knew the answer.

Employee Returned

The church statement said that at about 4:50 P.M. Tuesday a 25-year-old employee of the church public communications department, Daniel Hinmon, returned from a staff meeting to go into his unlighted office to pick up a package previously prepared for mailing.

When he picked up the package, he also raised from the table, where it had lain under the package, an envelope.

The envelope was of a sort distributed free at the church information center in Temple Square across the street from the 28-story church office tower in downtown Salt Lake City. The envelopes are provided so that visitors to the center may use them in mailing tracts back home.

There in his darkened office on the 25th floor of the tower, the young clerk noticed the envelope had been addressed to Spencer W. Kimball, the 81-year-old president of the church.

Mr. Hinmon gave the envelope to two security men on duty outside Mr. Kimball's office, just down a 25-foot corridor from the church information office. One of the two, John R. Grubb, gave the envelope to Nola Alleman, a secretary whose duties include the opening of Mr. Kimball's mail. Because the stationery from Temple Square was used, it was not thought the envelope contained anything unusual.

The secretary inadvertently opened the inner as well as the outer envelope.

When she saw what was

there she gave the papers to D. Arthur Haycock, executive secretary to Mr. Kimball.

Early yesterday the papers were turned over to Mr. Kirton, the church lawyer, and an attempt was made to find out where they had come from. This was not successful.

Inside the outer envelope was a sheet of paper on which was written in ink: "This was found by Joseph F. Smith's house in 1972."

Even this raised mysteries. Three men important in Mormon affairs have been named Joseph Smith. The first was the church's Prophet. The second was his nephew, Joseph F. Smith, who was president of the church from 1901 to 1918. The second Joseph F. Smith, son of the first, who uses his middle name—Joseph Fielding Smith—was president from January 1970, to July, 1972.

The two houses where the father and son lived are widely separated.