

CIA

'WILL' LETTER TIED TO HUGHES HOTEL

MAY 29 1976

Postage Numbers Used by
Meter in Las Vegas
NYTimes

LOS ANGELES, May 28 (UPI)—The attorney for the man named executor of a purported will of Howard R. Hughes confirmed today that at least two digits and perhaps three contained in a postage meter mark corresponded in sequence to numbers on a meter machine registered to the hotel where Mr. Hughes lived.

"There is at least a relevant probability that the number on the envelope is the same as the number on the Pitney-Bowes machine," Harold Rhoden said. He represents Noah Dietrich, a former top Hughes aide who was named executor in the purported will.

Quite a Coincidence

"If it is the same number, then whoever wrote the will had access to that machine. Hughes certainly had access. He was there. Dummar did not."

Dummar is Melvin Dummar, a Utah service station operator who said he once befriended a man who identified himself as Mr. Hughes. The so-called "Mormon will" that was found in the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Mormon Church April 27 named Mr. Dummar as a beneficiary.

The similarity of the postage meter mark number on an envelope containing the will and the number of the meter ma-

chine was disclosed earlier by Carol Moore, the San Diego office manager of Pitney-Bowes, who said, "This is quite a coincidence, at the very least."

She said postage meter No. 841862 was registered to the Desert Inn at Las Vegas in June 1967, and was still there in 1968 when the purported will was dated.

"It's too early to be certain of anything, but it looks like we may be on the way to showing this document was at least handled by someone within the Hughes organization."

The will found in Salt Lake City was the first of more than a score of wills that have come to light since the billionaire died April 5. Most of the wills appear to be the work of pranksters or have obvious errors of fact but the "Mormon will" was taken seriously enough to be filed for probate. The next probate hearing is scheduled for July 30 in Las Vegas.