

Evidence of a Possible Forgery In a Hughes Will to Be Produced

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SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14—Nevada Attorney General Robert List and Nevada District Judge Keith Hayes agreed today that evidence pointing to forgery in a purported will of Howard R. Hughes would be produced in court on Dec. 28.

Previously, Mr. List had refused to discuss evidence gathered by his investigators. Last night he said in a telephone interview that he intended to pursue leads that pointed to forgery. But he would not say what the evidence was.

In a hearing before Judge Hayes in Las Vegas today, attorneys representing groups that have attacked the will as a forgery said they understood the state officials had found one of Melvin Dummar's thumbprints on the inside of the outer one of two envelopes in which the purported will of the wealthy recluse was found.

Mr. Dummar, who was named as a beneficiary in the will, has said that he never saw or touched it. He runs a service station in Utah and says he gave Mr. Hughes a ride into Las Vegas about 10 years ago.

Honolulu-Las Vegas Agreement

The agreement between Mr. List, who was in Honolulu, and Judge Hayes, who was in his chambers in the Clark County Courthouse in Las Vegas, Nev., was reached in a telephone conversation.

The will in question was found April 27 in the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

After being found in a vacant office, it was opened in the Mormon president's office, sources said. When the contents were discovered, the will, a note and the inner envelope were taken to Las Vegas and filed with the court clerk, as the note directed.

But the outer envelope was not sent to Las Vegas. In October, sources said, it was turned over to the Nevada state investigators, who caused the examina-

tion to be made that turned up the alleged fingerprint.

Mr. Dummar's lawyer suggested yesterday that somehow a fingerprint had been falsely put on the envelope. He said that Mr. Dummar denied that he had handled

"Melvin Dummar has put everybody to a lot of expense and has played games," said James Dilworth, an attorney representing relatives of Mr. Hughes. These relatives of Mr. Hughes's mother, and another group related to his father, will inherit the estate if no will is found.

"The cat has been nailed," Mr. Dilworth said. "He seems to have a lot of lives and we don't want him to perpetuate himself."

When the first hearing on the so-called Mormon will was held last May, the courtroom was crowded with lawyers representing various classes of beneficiaries designated in the document.

Today, there were only two groups—those representing Noah Dietrich, the one-time Hughes aide named executor of the will, and those representing the Hughes relatives who contend that the will is a forgery.

Mr. Dietrich's lawyers were asking for a delay in the face of statements that evidence of forgery exists.

In the absence of any valid will, the relatives will divide what is left of the estate when taxes and probate costs have been paid. No realistic estimate has been put into court records of the estate's value at Mr. Hughes's death on April 5.

Attorney General List became interested in the will because it purported to give one-sixteenth of the Hughes estate to the University of Nevada. As the state's chief law enforcement officer, he was obligated to continue when he found evidence of possible forgery.

Since it was received at Las Vegas on April 29, no chemical tests have been allowed on the ink and paper of the will. But today Judge Hayes ordered that they be made.