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Beneficiary of a Hughes Will Is Broke

Los Angeles

Utah garage attendant Melvin Dummar, 32, who is a \$150 million beneficiary in the disputed Howard Hughes "Mormon will," said yesterday he is broke and jobless but no one will give him a job because they think he is rich.

In tears as he spoke on a Los Angeles television interview, Dummar categorically denied he had

ever handled the will found in the Mormon Church headquarters in Salt Lake City last April. He said:

"If my fingerprint is on the will as they claim, then someone else planted it there."

Fingerprint experts in Los Angeles said yesterday that transferring a fingerprint with Scotch Tape was relatively easy and there had been recent such cases in the Los Angeles area.

In Las Vegas on Tuesday a judge ordered tests of the handwriting, ink and paper on the will to see if it were really written by Hughes in 1968.

In the will, Hughes left 1/16 of his fortune, estimated at between \$1.5 and \$2 million, to Dummar.

In the interview, Dummar said he was in financial trouble and had lost the gas station he once owned

in Willard, Utah.

"There's a lot of people who think I am just joking when I tell them I can't find a job. They think I'm rich and shouldn't be asking.

"What I have gone through in the last few months, all of the accusations and mud-throwing, it has ruined me."

Reuters