

Tests Show Hughes Brain Undamaged

*By Wallace Turner
New York Times*

Texas Attorney General John Hill reported yesterday to a Probate Court judge in Houston that Howard Hughes' mental faculties were not impaired by neurological disease when he died on April 5, 1976.

Hill's report is based on tests conducted at Methodist Hospital in Houston by Dr. Ellsworth C. Alvord. The tests were of brain and spinal cord tissues saved when an autopsy, performed last year, determined that Hughes died of kidney failure.

Questions about his mental competence have arisen during various legal maneuvers concerning his estate. Some published reports alleged he had paresis or meningo-vascular syphilis. Dr. Alvord found this was not true, and also ruled out pre-senile or senile dementia, as well as Pick's disease and Parkinsonism.

"In all reasonable medical probability Howard Hughes was not afflicted by any structural neurological disease affecting his mental competence," Hill told Probate Judge Pat Gregory.

Nevada Attorney General Robert List will appear in Probate Court today in Las Vegas to report to District Judge Keith Hayes on an examination by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of a purported Hughes will. List would not discuss his report yesterday, but sources familiar with the FBI findings said they expected him to tell Judge Hayes that the will undoubtedly is a forgery.

The will is the one offered for probate by Noah Dietrich, the onetime aide to Hughes whose memoirs are the basis for a television broadcast this week. The will named Dietrich as executor.

Because it was found in the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it came to be known as "the Mormon will."

Among the beneficiaries named in it is Melvin Dummar, a laborer living at Ogden, Utah. At first, Dummar denied knowing anything about the purported will, but subsequently told a variety of other stories.
