

NYTimes

On this, see also
Nixon, real estate:

NYTimes SEP 27 1973
**HUGHES POWER BID
ON NIXON CHARGED**

**Ex-Employe Says Billionaire
Sought 'to Own President'**

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 25 (UPI)—Howard R. Hughes made cash contributions of \$100,000 to President Nixon's campaigns because he wanted to "own the President" and "choose his successor," a former top assistant of Mr. Hughes alleged Tuesday.

Robert A. Maheu, former head of Mr. Hughes's Nevada gambling empire, made the charges in a deposition as part of his \$17.5-million libel suit against his former boss.

In addition to the Nixon contributions, Mr. Hughes also allegedly donated \$50,000 to then Vice President Hubert Humphrey in 1968 for campaign purposes and \$25,000 to the campaign of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the deposition said.

Mr. Maheu contended that two intermediaries—both Mr. Hughes's employes—channeled \$100,000 in cash in two payments to President Nixon through Charles G. Rebozo, one of Mr. Nixon's closest friends.

Mr. Maheu, who was dismissed by Mr. Hughes three years ago in a corporate shake-up of the billionaire's empire, said he was concerned that the \$100,000 donations might violate Federal campaign laws since they exceeded \$5,000, the minimum amount that had to be reported.

"I seem to recall on each of those instances Mr. Hughes had told me not to be concerned, that he had independently checked and was satisfied the funds would be handled in such a manner as to not violate the law," Mr. Maheu said.

Mr. Maheu said he personally delivered the \$50,000 contribution to Mr. Humphrey outside a hotel in Los Angeles in 1968.

Mr. Hughes also donated \$25,000 to Senator Kennedy's campaign, but the money was

not delivered until after his assassination and was given to the Democratic National Committee chairman, Larry O'Brien.

The Nixon contributions, according to Mr. Maheu, were delivered in cash to Mr. Rebozo by Richard Danner, managing director of the Hughes-owned Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

Mr. Maheu said Mr. Hughes had wanted to "own the President, choose his successor, members of the Supreme Court, Senators, Congressmen and politicians at all levels."