

# Donald Nixon's Dominican Ventures



**Jack Anderson**

**D**ONALD NIXON, the President's irrepressible brother, showed up in the Dominican Republic in October, 1969, to talk business with President Joaquin Balaguer.

In a back room of the presidential palace, they discussed what Donald could do for the Dominican Republic and what the Dominicans could do for Donald.

Out of the powwow came mining concessions for Donald and an opportunity to build a luxury apartment complex on government-owned ocean frontage in Santo Domingo.

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**I**N RETURN, Balaguer wanted Donald to use his influence with the White House. Recalls businessman John Meier, who accompanied Donald Nixon to Santo Domingo:

"Balaguer was talking in front of a group of people, and he was blunt about it. He said he needed White House help in his election, and he said he needed a bigger share of the sugar quota.

"Later on, when everybody was outside, Balaguer said something to his interpreter, and the interpreter came over and whispered to Don. Balaguer and Don then went to the back room and closed the door."

The following year, the Dominican sugar quota was increased from 458,000 to 515,000 tons. And two veteran Republican campaigners, Clifton White and ex-Representative Donald "Buz" Lukens, went to Santo Domingo during Balaguer's election campaign.

Three witnesses have sworn to us in affidavits that they heard Donald say he never embarked on his business adventures without first checking with the President.

But White House sources tell us the President was so concerned about Donald's wheeling and dealing that he asked aide John Ehrlichman to keep an eye on Donald and, finally, ordered a tap on Donald's telephone.

Ehrlichman became particularly suspicious of Donald's dealings with Meier, formerly a business aide of billionaire Howard Hughes.

Once, Ehrlichman asked the President's personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, to fly to Las Vegas to check on Meier. Another time, the President's friend, Bebe Rebozo, telephoned Hughes' headquarters in Las Vegas and demanded that Meier be kept away from Donald.

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**S**UBSEQUENTLY, Rebozo made another call to Hughes' headquarters and angrily reported that his informants had just told him Meier and Donald were together at that moment at the Orange County airport.

Meier was subsequently sued by Hughes who charged his former associate with skimming off profits from mining claims. Meier is also under indictment in Nevada on tax evasion charges. He claims the charges are politically motivated and are an outgrowth of the White House phone taps on Donald.