

Two Probes of the Hughes

\$100,000

Washington

Special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox and the Internal Revenue Service are both investigating a \$100,000 cash gift from billionaire Howard Hughes to President Nixon's friend, Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, it was learned yesterday.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the Senate Watergate committee had begun an investigation into the matter, citing contradictory testimony from several witnesses as a reason. Yesterday, committee members were in Florida, where Rebozo lives and has real estate and banking interests.

TAX

The investigators questioned Rebozo this month, but wish to explore the affair further, sources told the AP.

A spokesman for Cox declined to comment on the special prosecutor's probe into the affair. In Los Angeles, however, it was learned that Cox has requested transcripts of testimony about the \$100,000. An unofficial source also confirmed that Cox is investigating the affair and seeking Rebozo's tax records.

The Internal Revenue Ser-

vice has known about the Rebozo money for at least 17 months.

According to sworn testimony, Rebozo received the cash in two shipments around 1970 from an old friend, Richard G. Danner, who works for the Hughes gambling interests in Las Vegas. Rebozo told the Senate committee that he returned the money early this year, after keeping it in a safe-deposit box in his bank in Key Biscayne, Fla., for roughly three years.

CASH

IRS agents questioned Danner about the cash in May, 1972, he disclosed recently in testimony given in connection with a Los Angeles lawsuit.

The IRS showed renewed interest in the case last April, when it asked Danner to sign a statement about the money.

LOOK

White House spokesman Gerald L. Warren was questioned about the Hughes money at length yesterday for a third straight day. He said Mr. Nixon and Rebozo have discussed the matter, and that the President is satisfied Rebozo didn't use the money for any nonpolitical purpose.

"He accepted it as a po-

tential campaign contribution. The money was returned. The President was informed of it earlier this year. There was no impropriety," Warren said.

Warren said Mr. Nixon is confident that whatever investigative bodies look into the matter "will find no im-

propriety."

The White House says that Rebozo didn't tell Mr. Nixon, his frequent companion, about the money until the subject came up in a general conversation early this year.

However, newspaper accounts of the \$100,000 gift

had appeared as early as Aug. 6, 1971, when columnist Jack Anderson outlined its essential details.

Somewhat later, on October 12, publisher Hank Greenspun of the Las Vegas Sun told President Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert W. Kalmbach, about the money and asked if it had gone into the furnishings of President Nixon's San Clemente estate, Greenspun said in a telephone interview. Greenspun said Kalmbach denied that any of it had gone into the president's western facility.

Associated Press