

President Won't Quit -- Rebozo

By Lou Cannon

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MIAMI, Nov. 1—Presidential intimate C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo today pictured President Nixon as a man "discouraged" by media coverage and by public reaction to some of his policies. But he said there was no chance that Mr. Nixon would resign.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Miami Herald, published the same day that the President flew here for a weekend in Rebozo's company, Rebozo also gave his version of several controversial financial transactions.

These included his account of how he came to receive \$100,000 in Nixon campaign contributions from Howard Hughes, only to keep them in his bank vault and return the money unused three years later.

Rebozo said he received the contributions in two \$50,000 increments in 1970 and told the President's longtime personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, about it. (This conflicts with two sworn accounts that the money was delivered to Rebozo no later than August, 1969.)

Rebozo said he never told the President because Mr. Nixon has a policy of refusing to discuss campaign con-

tributions—the same explanation frequently given by the White House.

According to Rebozo, he finally mentioned the Hughes contribution to Mr. Nixon during one of the President's visits to Key Biscayne after the 1972 election.

"... I knew that Rose hadn't told him, but I couldn't sit there forever with the money without at least letting him know about it," Rebozo said.

The money that was returned was exactly the same money he had been given, Rebozo said, and he added that he took down the serial numbers of the currency before he returned it.

"... I wanted to give the identical bills because I felt that if by chance it was skim money, which I had no reason to think it was, and knowing that everybody in Las Vegas is fingerprinted, I thought that if they wanted to check it, they would certainly find a lot of fingerprints on it that belonged to Vegas people they could identify," Rebozo said.

Rebozo said he had "a very high regard for Howard Hughes" because "he's tried to do a lot of things for humanity and for the country."

However, Rebozo said he was suspicious of any loan from Hughes because he remembered anti-Nixon publicity that followed a \$205,000 loan from Hughes to Mr. Nixon's brother, Donald.

Rebozo said the Hughes contribution he received in 1970 was intended for the 1972 re-election campaign and that he put it in his vault because the campaign had no manager or finance director at that time. In the meantime, he said, a fight broke out within the Hughes organization between Richard Danner, the aide who

had delivered the money, and Robert Maheu, a top Hughes official who had broken with his boss and was suing him.

"... They had all that flap out there and I began to get memories of that \$205,000 situation," Rebozo said. "I thought I would just sit tight and wait to see if this blew over and then use it. It didn't get any better, so then I thought, well, maybe it will still quiet down and we can use it in the 1974 congressional races, because heaven knows he'll need more help than ever before. But it just got worse and worse and I gave it back."

Rebozo confirmed a story that appeared in The Washington Post that he decided to return the money after the Internal Revenue Service began investigating in 1972. He gave no details.

Rebozo denied a report in The Washington Post that he had complained about former Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox's inquiry into the Hughes contribution and that this was one of the reasons that led to Cox's firing.

"It's totally false," Rebozo said, "totally false. Just another product of the distorted imagination of The Washington Post. Absolutely not one scintilla of fact connected with it any more than 90 per cent of the stories they've written about this incident or other matters relating to me."

President Nixon, as seen by Rebozo, is "not the kind of man that you necessarily warm up to immediately... He's a deep thinker. He's a very dedicated person... but he is so dedicated to his country and his job that he doesn't have time for the normal small talk that people frequently indulge in."