

FBI Linked To Rebozo's Hughes Cash

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Two Republican congressmen said yesterday that President Nixon told them the FBI recorded serial numbers of a \$100,000 cash campaign contribution which Mr. Nixon's friend, C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, accepted from financier Howard R. Hughes.

It was the first time the FBI had been connected in any way with the money, which Rebozo eventually returned intact earlier this year.

At his Oct. 26 news conference, Mr. Nixon characterized Rebozo as "a totally honest man" and said he acted properly in holding and then returning the contribution.

Reps. Charles W. Whalen Jr. (R-Ohio) and Matthew J. Rinaldo (R-N.J.) reported Mr. Nixon's remarks of FBI involvement during his final breakfast meeting with GOP congressmen about the Watergate scandal yesterday.

Whalen said Mr. Nixon told the group that Rebozo had accepted the money from a Hughes representative on the premise that it would be given to the finance chairman whenever appointed, but later decided to return it when an internal dispute erupted in Hughes' financial empire.

"He (Mr. Nixon) said Rebozo returned it in the presence of an FBI man who checked it out—fingerprinted and checked the serial numbers," Whalen said.

Whalen quoted the President as saying the FBI checked the serial numbers to see if the bills corresponded to the same serial numbers on the money Rebozo received.

Rinaldo gave a similar account of Mr. Nixon's comment, which was made in answer to a question from one of the congressmen.