

Fla. Seeks Nixon's Bank File

By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

State Attorney Richard Gerstein of Dade County said yesterday that he has subpoenaed records of C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo's Key Biscayne bank relating to President Nixon's personal finances and contributions made to the Nixon re-election campaign.

Gerstein confirmed a report in The Miami Herald that a former vice president of the bank, Richard Stearns, said in sworn testimony to the prosecutor's office had testified that Mr. Nixon had a \$100,000 certificate of deposit in the bank.

He also confirmed that an account was opened for deposit of Nixon campaign funds immediately before the April 7, 1972, deadline for reporting such contributions.

According to Rebozo attorney William Frates, the account was opened for the specific purpose of receiving \$10,000 from an unnamed contributor.

"We've given the attorneys for the bank a list of records that we want and they've agreed to supply them except for one person," Gerstein said.

Asked if the "one person" was Mr. Nixon, Gerstein said he could neither confirm nor deny this.

Gerstein said that if the bank fails to produce the records within a week, he will go into court and demand their production as part of a continuing investigation of the Watergate conspiracy in south Florida.

"This is with a view to prosecuting the conspiracy case in the state courts of Florida," Gerstein said.

The significance of the Nixon certificate of deposit may depend upon the date it was issued. In financial statements released in 1969 and 1972 the President listed assets that could include such an amount.

But he told the Associated Press managing editors at Disney World on Nov. 17:

"... When I, in 1968, decided to become a candidate for President, I decided to clean the decks and put everything into real estate."

He also described his homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne as "all I have."

Gerstein said he didn't know if the \$100,000 that Stearns testified about was in any way related to the \$100,000 which Rebozo has said he received as a Nixon campaign contribution from billionaire Howard Hughes.

But Gerstein pointed out that Rebozo had said he kept that money in cash for three years before returning it to Hughes early this year.

In an interview with the Miami Herald published on Nov. 1, 1973, Rebozo said he had the Hughes money inventoried and the serial numbers copied because "I wanted to make absolutely sure that there was no question about it being the identical bills."

Rebozo said he had kept the Hughes money in the bank in cash because no finance chairman or campaign chairman for the Nixon re-election committee had been named when the contribution was made in 1970.

In the same interview Rebozo said he handled some other unspecified financial contributions to Mr. Nixon in 1972 but would have sent them to Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

"So the (Hughes) \$100,000 was the only money you didn't handle that way," Rebozo has asked.

"That's correct," he replied.

The subpoenas for the bank records on the Nixon campaign contributions and personal finances were issued by Gerstein after he questioned Stearns and another former Key Biscayne bank officer, Richard DeBoer.

DeBoer resigned from the bank this month after an investigation was launched by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. into his background. The Miami Herald said the FDIC was probing DeBoer's record as a stockbroker who had been suspended by the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1971.

Stearns joined the bank in September, 1968, and left last December, citing personal reasons.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said yesterday that President Nixon soon will release information that will clear up "all questions" about his personal finances.